

## Aruba TODAY

On Top Of The News E-mail:news@arubatoday.com Website:www.arubatoday.com Tel:582-7800 Friday, January 14 , 2011

### Giffords opens both eyes and moves her arms, legs



TUCSON, Ariz. – Gabrielle Giffords has made a “major leap forward” in her recovery progress, opening both eyes and moving her legs and arms, her doctors said Thursday. The Arizona congresswoman remains in critical condition after being shot in the head Saturday. Few people who take a bullet to the brain just 10 percent survive such a devastating wound.

With her closest friends from Congress holding her hand Wednesday evening, Giffords opened her unbandaged left eye and tried to focus on loved ones for the first time.

“This is a major leap forward. This is a major milestone for her and we’re hoping that she crosses through many more,” said her neurosurgeon Dr. Michael Lemole.

Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, who was present for the eye opening, said: “It was raw courage. It was raw strength. It was so beautiful and so moving.”

Doctors have also helped Giffords sit up and dangle her legs from her bed. She’s able to open her right eye, even though it’s bandaged.

The next milestone will be removing her breathing tube, and perhaps have her sit in a chair on Friday, said Dr. Peter Rhee, trauma chief at University Medical Center, who has treated soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan. Doctors want to make sure Giffords doesn’t regress and are watching for pneumonia and blood clots.

It’s a far cry from last week, when a shocked nation braced for the worst for the 40-year-old Arizona congresswoman. Several news outlets erroneously declared her dead soon after the shooting rampage that killed six. Stunned by the day’s events, crowds held candlelight vigils outside the hospital and Giffords’ Tucson office.

After her surgery, Dr. Richard Carmona, the former surgeon general and family friend who looked at Giffords’ brain scans, gave a bleak outlook.

“With guarded optimism, I hope she will survive, but this is a very devastating wound,” he said.

But as the days ticked by, doctors shared signs of improvement. There was a glimmer of hope early on: Giffords was able to squeeze a doctor’s hand in the emergency room.

*Continued on Page A5*



### Goodbye to an angel

*Tucson says farewell to youngest shooting victim*

Roxanna and John Green, the mother and father of Christina Green, stand with their son Dallas as they arrive for Christina’s funeral at the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church on Thursday, Jan. 13, 2011, in Tucson, Ariz. Green was the youngest victim of Saturday’s shooting in Tucson.

*See Next Page*

### Biden addresses U.S. troops in Baghdad



U.S. Vice President Joe Biden speaks to U.S. service members at al-Faw Palace at Camp Victory in Baghdad, Iraq, Thursday, Jan. 13, 2011. Vice President Joe Biden said Thursday that the U.S. should make sure Iraq’s stability and democracy are strong enough to make it “a country that was worthy of the sacrifices” the American military suffered during eight years of war before the final troops depart.

*Associated Press*

LARA JAKES

Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Vice President Joe Biden said Thursday that the U.S. should make sure Iraq’s stability and democracy are strong enough to make it “a country that was worthy of the sacrifices” the American military suffered during eight years of war.

Biden, speaking to some 400 soldiers in Baghdad, also said the U.S. would continue to train and equip Iraqi forces beyond 2011. His remarks highlighted continuing uncertainty about whether all American troops will head home by the end of the year as required by a security agreement between the two nations.

*Continued on Page A13*



# Tucson says farewell to youngest shooting victim



TUCSON, Arizona — Hundreds of people gathered to say farewell on Thursday to a bright 9-year-old who loved to dance and play baseball, but was gunned down when she went to learn about politics from her congresswoman. Christina Green, the youngest victim of a shooting spree last Saturday that claimed six lives and left Rep. Gabrielle Giffords battling for her life, will be the first to be buried in a funeral on Thursday.

Hundreds of mourners began lining both sides of the road outside St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church in north Tucson ahead of her funeral at 1 p.m.. A church bell signaling noon broke the quiet as mourners waited for the service. Family members escorted the small coffin into the church in silence, for the service, which was closed to the news media. "She showed an appreciation for life uncommon for a girl

her age," President Barack Obama said in an emotional address to thousands of people crammed into a Tucson sports stadium to mourn on Wednesday evening. "I want to live up to her expectations, I want our democracy to be as good as Christina imagined it, I want America to be as good as Christina imagined it," he said to applause and roars of approval. The lively youngster was born on September 11 2001, the day of suicide aircraft attacks on New York. A stars and stripes flag pulled from the rubble of the World Trade Center in the days after Christina's birth was brought in to hang between two fire truck ladders. The top student, who was elected to her class council, was the granddaughter of former pro baseball manager Dallas Green. She loved dancing, gymnastics

and swimming, and hoped to be the first woman to play major-league baseball. The Bishop of Tucson, Bishop Gerald Kicanas, was scheduled to give a blessing inside the church, as mourners offered each other consolation outside. "We've all been affected in Tucson," said Maggie Parisoff, 35, a crisis counselor roving through the crowd outside the church to offer help to anyone in need. Her funeral will be followed on Friday by that of federal judge John Roll, who was gunned down alongside her after he called in at the "Congress on the corner" event to see Giffords, who was a friend. Police arrested a 22-year-old college dropout, Jared Lee Loughner, for the killings. He made his first court appearance on Monday, and faces five federal charges, including the attempted



In this photo provided by the family, Christina Green is shown. Green, 9, was killed at a political event with Rep. Gabrielle Giffords in Tucson, Ariz. on Saturday, Jan. 8, 2011. (AP Photo/Green Family)

assassination of Giffords. The congresswoman remains in critical condition in hospital, where five other patients are being treated for gunshot wounds. Giffords opened her eyes on Wednesday, during a visit by two close friends from the U.S. Congress. □



## Free Shirt Friday!

Get a FREE Alhambra T-Shirt when you earn 500 points today with your Alhambra Advantage Card!

Alhambra cap may be substituted for t-shirt.



• TOMORROW •

Don't miss Super BINGO Saturday!

\$1,000 in CASH PRIZES & Progressive Bingo!





Open daily 6pm to 2am  
Happy Hour from 6 to 8pm

• SPORTS BOOK •

Bet on all your favorite sports!



## Where Aruba goes to play!

Open daily 10am to 4am • J.E. Irausquin Blvd #47 • 583.5000 • [www.casinoalhambra.com](http://www.casinoalhambra.com)

Must be an Alhambra Advantage member. All programs and promotions are subject to change or cancellation without prior notice.



# U.S. urges citizens to put off travel to Tunisia

WASHINGTON – The State Department advised U.S. citizens on Thursday to put off nonessential travel to Tunisia, citing the “intensifying political and social unrest” in the North African country.

“The U.S. Department of State alerts U.S. citizens to the intensifying political and social unrest in Tunisia and recommends deferring nonessential travel to Tunisia at this time,” the State Department said in a travel

alert.

At least five people suffered gunshot wounds in clashes with police in the center of Tunisia’s capital, Tunis, on Wednesday in a sharp escalation of the worst unrest in the country in decades.

The State Department’s statement said the unrest has spread to Tunis and “all major cities, including popular tourist destinations.” The events had been spontaneous and unpredictable and had

several times turned violent, it said.

The unrest, in its fourth week, had been confined to provincial towns and working class suburbs on the outskirts of the capital.

“While these disturbances appear to be triggered by economic concerns, and not to be directed toward Westerners, U.S. citizens are urged to remain alert to local security developments and to be vigilant regarding their

## Retirement deferred for Navy officer over lewd videos case



WASHINGTON – The Navy officer who commanded the aircraft carrier USS Enterprise when lewd videos were made has had his planned retirement deferred, pending the outcome of an investigation of the matter, the Navy said.

Rear Admiral Lawrence Rice was the commanding officer on the Enterprise when videos that included slurs against homosexuals, simulated masturbation and toilet humor were made and shown to sailors as on-board entertainment.

Rice’s retirement, which was planned for February 1, has been deferred pending the

outcome of an investigation into the incident.

“The deferment is a necessary and prudent step as the investigation continues,” Navy Chief of Information Rear Admiral Dennis Moynihan said on Thursday. Rice, who had been with the Joint Forces Command, will now report to Fleet Forces Command. The news of the move comes just over a week after Captain Owen Honors

was removed from command of the nuclear-powered Enterprise, one of the Navy’s largest ships, over his role in the videos. Honors had been second in command of the ship when he produced, starred in and circulated the videos, which were made in 2006 and 2007 but surfaced publicly just after the start of this year and shortly before the Enterprise was set to deploy. As second-in-command, one of Honors’ duties was maintaining morale.

In announcing last week that Honors was being relieved, Admiral John Harvey, commander of the Fleet Forces Command, said: “His profound lack of good judgment and professionalism while previously serving as executive officer on Enterprise calls into question his character and completely undermines his credibility to continue to serve effectively in command.”

When the videos became public, questions were raised about what Honors’ superiors had known about them. Moynihan declined to put a timetable on the investigation. “It is ongoing and proceeding in what we consider a thorough and expeditious manner,” he said. □



personal security,” the travel alert said.

Americans were urged to avoid all demonstrations in Tunisia, even peaceful ones, as “a foreigner could become a target of harassment or worse.”

The protesters in Tunisia say they are angry about unemployment, corruption and what they say is government repression. Officials say the protests have been hijacked by a minority of violent extremists. □

**Special Of the Month!**

<p><b>Appetizer</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fish Soup</li> <li>• Onion Soup</li> <li>• Conch Fritters</li> <li>• Escargot</li> <li>• Salad</li> </ul>	<p><b>Entrée</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Fresh Catch of the Day</b> prepared by our local chef just the way you like it.</li> <li>• <b>Jumbo Shrimp</b> from our local waters, breaded served with potato or rice or with garlic tossed over linguine.</li> <li>• <b>Filet Mignon*</b> 8 oz. US Tenderloin</li> <li>• <b>Grilled Boneless Chicken Breast</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Dessert</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chocolate or Banana Cake</li> <li>• Ice Cream</li> <li>• Coffee / Tea</li> </ul>	<p><b>3-course dinner</b> <b>\$24.95</b> per person</p> <p><small>This special cannot be used with any other promotions, vouchers or certificates.</small></p> <p><small>* A surcharge of \$2 will be added.</small></p>

**Driftwood Restaurant**  
Authentic Aruban Seafood

**Open daily 5:00 pm - 10:30 pm**  
(Closed on Tuesdays)  
**Klipstraat 12 • Tel: 583-2515**





## Snow-covered Mass. lifts state of emergency



BOSTON — Massachusetts lifted its state of emergency on Thursday as New England dug out from under deep snow following a winter storm that blasted the region with high winds and chilly temperatures. The storm blanketed eastern New York and western New England with anywhere from 8 inches to unofficial reports of 38 inches of snow in Berkshire County in Massachusetts, said meteorologist Brian Frugis with the National Weather Service in Albany, New York. Despite the snow from Wednesday's storm, Massachusetts emergency management teams and state police reported no major accidents.

"The road clean-up was excellent," said Peter Judge, spokesman for the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency. "We attribute that to the fact that folks stayed off the roads yesterday."

Massachusetts lifted the state of emergency it had declared at noon on Wednesday, at the height of the storm. Such declarations are typically made in order to gain access to emergency funding and to mobilize certain resources, such as the National Guard, to cope with the storm's impact. Power outages that affected more than 100,000 homes at the peak of the storm were reduced to just 3,500, said Judge.

Traffic patterns at Boston's Logan International Airport

also were returning to normal. Two active runways were available at Logan, with airlines operating at about 90 percent of a typical schedule, said Logan spokesman Phil Orlandella.

Winds that were a major factor in Wednesday's storm were likely to linger in the 10 to 25 mph range, which may cause snow to blow and drift, say meteorologists.

The winds were creating a significant chill in the air throughout the Northeast that was likely to keep the snow from melting, according to Accuweather.com meteorologists.

Wednesday's blizzard-like conditions did set some records, including a new snowstorm record in Hartford, Connecticut of 24 inches and a new snowiest day in Worcester, Massachusetts with 21.1 inches, according to The Weather Channel.

The heavy snow did not cause major outages or accidents in Vermont, said Mark Bosma, spokesman for Vermont Emergency Management.

In fact, Bosma said the state's ski industry "is doing backflips right now" over the fresh snow ahead of the three-day holiday weekend.

The latest storm to batter the Northeast came on the heels of separate weather systems that wreaked havoc across the South and Midwest.

"The potency of Wednesday's snowstorm came to be after two separate storm systems

merged together," said Accuweather.com senior meteorologist Kristina Pydynowski.

The storm that leveled the South with snow and ice Sunday into Monday was having lingering effects.

Several southern states battled snow and ice for a fourth straight day on Thursday as overnight temperatures well below freezing slowed efforts to clear roads, but there was a sense of optimism that an end might be in sight.

"It's supposed to be 40 degrees tomorrow," Crystal Paul-Buchanan, spokeswoman for the Georgia Emergency Management Agency, said. "Freight is moving and stores are being restocked. Things are looking good."

Even so, many schools in the Atlanta area remained closed and roads remained icy in spots, but government offices and courts reopened.

The upper northwest corner of South Carolina was not expected to thaw until Sunday. Roads and highways remain covered in frozen slush with patches of black ice although interstates and major roads are drivable, officials said.

In Greenville, one of the state's hardest hit cities, 17 snow plows have been working around the clock.

"I've only been here six years, and people were telling me that this was the biggest snowstorm since 1988," said Mike Murphy, Greenville's director of public works.



## F-35 looking more like white elephant

WASHINGTON — The F-35 fighter jet, set to replace a large part of the US warplane fleet, has become the most expensive weapons program ever, drawing increased scrutiny at a time of tight public finances.

Following a series of cost overruns and delays, the program is now expected to cost a whopping 382 billion dollars, for 2,443 aircraft.

The so-called 5th generation fighter was built with features designed to help avoid enemy radar and ensure American supremacy in the skies for decades.

But there is now the potential for competition from China, which this week unveiled its first radar-evading combat aircraft and fueled a sense of a military rivalry between the two powers. At home, the Lockheed Martin F-35 is getting increased criticism even from some at the Pentagon.

Defense officials say the original cost estimates have now doubled to make each plane's price tag reach some 92 million dollars.

At the same time, the contract awarded in 2001 had been planned to last 10 years, but has been extended to 2016 because of testing and design issues.

Lockheed Martin, which is working with Northrop Grumman and BAE Systems, is developing three versions of the aircraft, which are being designed for ground attack as well as reconnaissance missions.

The F-35A is designed to replace the F-16 and A-10 of the US Air Force, while the F-35C is designed for deployment on aircraft carriers to supplant to F-18, and the F-35B would have a vertical takeoff capacity and replace Harrier aircraft.

US Defense Secretary Robert Gates has warned the cost overruns cannot continue and expressed particular concern over the short take-off and vertical landing variant.

"The culture of endless money that has taken hold must be replaced by a culture of restraint," he said recently.

For the short-takeoff version, Gates has ordered "the equivalent of a two-year probation," adding that "if we cannot fix this variant during this time frame and get it back on track in terms of performance, cost and schedule, then I believe it should be canceled."

As part of a cost-saving drive, the Pentagon chief has decided to delay the purchase of 124 of the 449 units of this version until 2016.

Another bone of contention is a second engine being developed for the fighter by General Electric and Rolls Royce in case the Pratt & Whitney engine is not up to par. Gates contends this second engine is "unnecessary."

Private analysts say the whole F-35 program is becoming a money pit.

"The incredibly unfortunate phrase 'too big to fail' applies to this aircraft more than any other defense program," said Richard Aboulafia, an aerospace industry analyst with the Teal Group. □



Come join us



# Spin To Win Slot Tournament

Every Saturday, 9pm  
Live music

No Limit Hold'em Poker Tournament Every Saturday, 7 pm • Live music

*Come Celebrate your  
Birthday with Us!*

Birthday Boys and Girls  
will receive a \$5 table play  
chip and one coupon for  
a special cocktail.  
Every day all day long

## Ongoing Poker Bad Beat

When it's time to shuffle and deal,  
we always have a seat for you!  
Watch the "Bad Beat" Jackpot Grow...

The Casino at the Radisson  
Open daily from 12 noon to 4 am  
For information call +297 586 4045

*Fun Slots • Aruba's Hottest Poker Room Action • Weekly Tournaments & Promotions*

## GIFFORD

*Continued from Front Page*

By Sunday, Lemole said he was "cautiously optimistic" about her survival. She could follow basic commands when they briefly eased up on her sedation.

Doctors were encouraged Monday that there was no further brain swelling, and Giffords could raise two fingers of her left hand and even flashed a thumbs-up.

The following day, doctors said Giffords was breathing on her own, but still connected to a respirator as a precaution. She was also moving both arms. Doctors gave their most confident prognosis yet: She will survive.

"She has no right to look this good and she does," Lemole said.

As her sedation was scaled back, Giffords became more alert and moved on her own touching her wounds and fixing her hospital gown. She even scratched her nose, Lemole said.

The encouraging news continued when Gillibrand and Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, D-Fla., stood in the hospital room Wednesday, talking, joking and touching their friend.

"She was rubbing our hands and gripping our hands so ... we knew she could hear and understand what we were saying and she moved her leg, and so we knew she was responding," Gillibrand said. "And the more we joked about what we were going to do, she started to open her eyes."

Giffords' husband, Mark Kelly, realized the significance of the moment. "Gabby, open your eyes, open your eyes," he said, according to Gillibrand.

Said Schultz: "It felt like we were watching a miracle."

So how did Giffords survive the gunshot wound? The path of the bullet, quick and quality medical care, and a stroke of luck meant the difference between life and death, say her doctors and brain experts.

Doctors think the bullet pierced the front of Giffords' head and exited the back, slicing the left side of the brain, which controls speech abilities and muscles on the right side of the body.

Had the bullet damaged both sides of the brain or struck the brain stem, which connects to the spinal cord, the outcome would likely be worse extensive permanent damage, vegetative state or death.

"So far, she's passed with flying colors of each stage" of her recovery, said neurologist Dr. Marc Nuwer of the University of California, Los Angeles, who is not involved in the congresswoman's treatment.

Most gunshot victims are not that fortunate. Several years ago, a Tucson police officer was shot in the head during a chase. His heart was beating when he was rushed to University Medical Center, but doctors couldn't control the bleeding in the brain and he died, Rhee said.

When Giffords arrived at the hospital, doctors first checked to make sure she didn't have any other injuries. They took a brain scan and wheeled her to the operating room in a swift 38 minutes. □

## The Other Arizona

The Nation, Just days before the tragic shooting in Tucson, Arizona's former superintendent of public instruction, Tom Horne, invoked an eleventh-hour ruling and declared Tucson Unified School District's Mexican-American Studies program in violation of a new Arizona law that bans any curriculum promoting ethnic solidarity or the overthrow of the government.

In effect, Horne, a Canadian-born son of Jewish refugees who fled Poland during the Holocaust, outlawed the celebration of one of Arizona's most enduring and important voices: Mexican-American leader Cesar Chavez, who famously led the United Farm Workers under the banner that "nonviolence is the only weapon that is compassionate and recognizes each person's value." After Horne announced his decision, his popularity surged among right-wing anti-immigrants



across the country; he even resigned from the Arizona board of the Anti-Defamation League after the organization found that the charges leveled against the program were baseless. In the past few years, episodes like this have typified news coverage of Arizona, prompting furious debate among the nation's politicians and pundits, and inviting laugh lines from late-night personalities like Daily Show host Jon Stewart, who dubbed the state "the meth lab of democracy." But while Horne and fellow anti-immigrant demagogues like Governor Jan Brewer (recently transplanted from California) and Phoenix-area Sheriff Joe Arpaio (from Massachusetts)

tend to dominate the headlines, the truth is that Arizona is also home to a resilient base of progressive and liberal leaders, who have worked tirelessly to rescue the state from radical right-wing interlopers and political carpetbaggers over the past century.

The battle to transcend the headline-grabbing exploits of the right wing in Arizona has proven to be a formidable task for Arizona's liberal ranks. But in the aftermath of the shooting, the nation has been reintroduced to "the other Arizona," a truer reflection of the borderlands' multicultural and progressive politics—not the worst but the best the state has to offer. □

Isaac Chin

examines Joran Van der Sloot: his personal history, his surroundings. Following up on his earlier book, *The Natalee Holloway Case*, Chin gives a complete background of the places, the times, and the actors, debunks the more fanciful theories, and offers a scenario of his own. Chin, a longtime resident of Aruba, saw with dismay the circus develop ... and notes that there is yet no proof that Joran Van der Sloot murdered Natalee Holloway or Stephany Flores, or anyone else. Chin paints a picture of a psychologically complicated manchild, intelligent, reckless, attractive to women, a habitual liar. Joran, caught with his pants down, so to speak, has been accused, tried in the court of public opinion, and even issued a guilty plea, later retracted. But until proven guilty, Joran, like any other accused, should be given the benefit of the doubt on the strength of the rule, "innocent until proven guilty."

*Joran, Joran; My Son, My Son* offers a detailed timeline of the locations, the people involved, and the Aruban justice system. Chin pulls no punches ... he knows the place and the people.

This is Isaac Joseph Chin's sixth book. *Where Is Cboy?* an autobiography, *Tilly the White-Liver Woman: Stories of the Caribbean*, and *The Natalee Holloway Case* are also available from Loft Press.

LOFT PRESS  
Fort Valley, Virginia  
On the Web at [www.LoftPress.com](http://www.LoftPress.com)



JORAN JORAN MY SON MY SON

Isaac Chin . .

THE NATALEE HOLLOWAY CASE  
WRAPPED UP

Joran  
Joran  
My Son  
My Son



# WikiLeaks gives 15K for accused leaker defense-group



WASHINGTON – WikiLeaks has contributed \$15,100 to help defend a junior U.S. soldier accused of leaking to it hundreds of thousands of sensitive diplomatic cables and other secret documents, a support group said on Thursday.

Specialist Bradley Manning, a former intelligence analyst suspected of obtaining the classified video of a 2007 helicopter attack that killed a dozen people in Baghdad, including two Reuters employees, and downloading more than 250,000 U.S. State Department documents. “This donation from WikiLeaks is vital to our efforts to ensure Bradley receives a fair, open trial,” Mike Gogulski, a founder of the Bradley Manning Defense Network, said in a statement. The WikiLeaks contribution brings total donations for

Manning’s defense to over \$100,000, the group said. Manning is being held at the Quantico Marine Base in Virginia as U.S. authorities investigate last year’s publication of the leaked cables, many of which were an embarrassment for Washington, and military documents related to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Julian Assange, the Australian behind the website that has been strongly condemned by the Obama administration, has denied knowing Manning. But he has accused the United States of using the jailed

soldier to build a case against him. Assange is in Britain on bail awaiting possible extradition to Sweden, where he is wanted for questioning over alleged sex crimes. Supporters have claimed responsibility for cyberattacks on major credit card sites in retaliation for moves to block donations to WikiLeaks. It is not clear when Manning, who was arrested in the first half of 2010, will face trial. Manning served in the intelligence operations of the 10th Mountain Division’s 2nd Brigade in Iraq. □

# New York cabs sued for lack of wheelchair accessibility

NEW YORK – New York City taxis are facing a class-action lawsuit accusing the fleet of failing to provide enough access to passengers who use wheelchairs. The lawsuit, the first of its kind in the United States, was filed in Manhattan federal court on Thursday on behalf of a coalition that advocates for rights of people with disabilities. According to the suit, only about 1.8 percent of New York City’s 13,237 taxis are

accessible to wheelchair-bound passengers. The lawsuit seeks no damages but aims to have the court acknowledge that the city’s Taxi and Limousine Commission violates local and federal laws by not providing more wheelchair-accessible taxis. The suit comes as the commission is poised to select a new model which will replace the city’s entire fleet of taxicabs. Among the

requirements specified by the city for the new model is wheelchair accessibility. Chris Noel, a member of the coalition of groups and individuals that filed the suit, said in a statement he has faced extreme difficulties getting cabs since he became handicapped. “I have been using a wheelchair for almost ten years. I remember how easy it was for me to hail a cab when I was not using my wheelchair. But now,



because there are so few taxis I can use, I often wait for an hour or more before an accessible taxi even passes me,” he said.

requires that taxicabs be accessible to people with wheelchairs, and, in fact, the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) specifically exempts taxicabs from the requirement.”

TLC spokesman Allan Fromberg said the commission had made an effort to accommodate handicapped passengers but said it was not bound by law to do so. “We have made tremendous strides over the years in improving transportation options for persons with disabilities, which we continue to prioritize,” he said. “At the same time, no federal or local law

The suit notes that the taxi commission is not legally bound to choose a wheelchair-accessible model for the new fleet, but the transition would be “a golden opportunity for the TLC to introduce accessible cars with minimal administrative burden and at minimal cost to drivers and medallion holders,” said Edith Prentiss of the Taxi’s for All Campaign. □

## THE BEST ON THE NET

# CIT

## Caribbean Internet Television

Your gateway to the world of entertainment  
also featuring:

- Top Real Estate/Hotels/Apartments
- Latinos por el mundo
- Away from home
- Tips for tourists

[www.caribbeaninternettelevision.net](http://www.caribbeaninternettelevision.net)

## Giorgio's Ristorante Italiano

A unique outdoor dining experience in the tropical garden at the poolside terrace. Enjoy tasteful pastas, pizzas and seafood specialties prepared with the freshest ingredients.

**Menu Turistico**  
3 course dinner  
**\$19.95 p.p.**

Open daily from:  
5:30 – 11:00 p.m.

Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa  
Behind the Alhambra Casino  
For reservations call: 582 3444  
E-mail: [giorgios@manchebo.com](mailto:giorgios@manchebo.com)





## Cruise ship outbreaks drop to all-time low

The number of outbreaks of gastrointestinal illness on cruise ships sailing from U.S. ports dropped again in 2010, continuing a downward trend that began several years ago as the industry increased prevention efforts. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta recorded just 14 outbreaks of illnesses such as norovirus on ships operating out of U.S. ports for the year, down from 15 in 2009 and in 2008, 21 in 2007 and 34 in 2006.

The decline came even as the number of people cruising continued to rise. The Cruise Lines International Association has estimated the industry carried 14.3 million passengers in 2010, up from 13.4 million in 2009.

Cruise ships arriving in U.S. ports must report all cases of gastrointestinal illness treated by on-board medical staff to the CDC's Vessel Sanitation Program division, and a separate notification is required when the number of cases exceeds 2% of passengers and crew. When the number of cases exceeds 3% of passengers and crew the CDC issues a public report. An analysis of the public reports for 2010 by USA TODAY's Cruise Log shows that, as in past years, the majority of the outbreaks -- 8 out of 14 -- were due to norovirus, a common stomach bug. The causes of the six other outbreaks remain unknown. □

# AHATA supports creation of "independentized" Aruba Tourism Authority



ORANJESTAD - In reviewing the outlook for 2011 the President and CEO of the Aruba Hotel and Tourism Association (AHATA) said that the membership of AHATA was looking forward to the creation of the new ATA which is scheduled to come into existence in early February. James Hepple, AHATA's President and CEO, said that he had explained the process by which the new independent ATA would come into being to AHATA's membership at the association's General Assembly held on December 30th and said that this new approach to marketing could only be beneficial for Aruba as a whole. He said that AHATA's membership, consisting of the hotels and other stakeholders of the Aruban tourism endorsed this initiative.

He went on to say that creating a much more efficient, streamlined and more agile destination marketing organization was vital if Aruba was to remain competitive in a very challenging marketing



environment and explained that this was something AHATA had been advocating for many years which would result in a much more entrepreneurial like tourism authority.

He said that AHATA had been working with the Government for more than a year to arrive at a mutually acceptable agreement to set up an effective joint public/private marketing Board of seven persons which would work in the best interests of Aruba's tourism sector and Aruba as a whole. Three members of the Board would be appointed by the Minister of Tourism, three by the Board of AHATA with the seventh independent director agreed upon by the other six directors and then appointed by the Minister. The Board is in place and consists of Ewald Biemans, Warren Stanley, Jim Hepple (Vice Chairman), Ed Malone, Sanju Luidens,

G.F. (Junior) Croes and, as the independent member and current Chairman, Jossy Lacle. Mr. Hepple said that the draft legislation which would establish the new ATA had been extensively discussed with the Minister of Tourism, Transportation and Labor Affairs, and that there had been give and take on both sides before arriving at what appears to be an effective set of ordinances which would establish the new tourism authority.

The Chairman of AHATA, Mr. Alex Nieuwmeier, endorsed these sentiments and said that this initiative had the strong support of AHATA's Board and membership as it was clear that a fund dedicated almost completely to marketing, independent of central Government finances, was a very effective way to ensure the long term continuity of Aruba's marketing efforts.

He applauded the fact that the ATA would now be a much leaner and more efficient organization and that the new Board would have the authority to review and approve marketing plans and programs as well as their supporting budgets. He further applauded the fact that it was clear the Government wanted an entity which would combine public and private expertise working together in the best interests of Aruba.

Mr. Javier Wolter, the President of CMB and AHATA's Treasurer, also congratulated this joint public/private initiative which is a first for Aruba and clearly to be in the best long term interest of tourism for the island. He acknowledged that it could take some time for the new ATA to reach its full potential given it would be operating with a completely new set of policies and practices. □



## Great Vacation Rental Values!

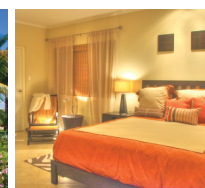
- Fully furnished 2 & 3 bedroom Town Homes
- Two community swimming pool plazas
- Very attractive rates
- Per room pricing less than major resorts



Tel: +297-586-2200 • Fax: +297-586-2201  
 rentals@goldcoastaruba.com  
 www.goldcoastaruba.com



*Dare to Dream...*



- Gated community with 24 hours security
- Villas, Town Homes and Condos
- Full resort facilities and services
- Prime location near golf course and beautiful white sandy beaches
- Vacation rental program

**Closed December 25th and January 1st**

**Opening Hours:**  
 Weekdays 9am - 6pm  
 Saturday 10am - 6pm  
 Sunday 12noon - 4pm



### OUTSTANDING INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY!

E-mail: info@goldcoastaruba.com • E-mail: rentals@goldcoastaruba.com  
 Tel: +297-586-2200 • Fax: +297-586-2201  
 Toll Free from the U.S. 1-866-978-5770 • www.goldcoastaruba.com

## Another challenging year ahead says AHATA



ORANJESTAD, Thursday January, 13, 2011 -- At a briefing today President and

CEO of the Aruba Hotel and Tourism Association (AHATA) James Hepple said that 2011 had all the makings of another challenging year for Aruba's tourism industry.

He said that whilst the final numbers were not yet in 2010 had shown some modest improvement over 2009, which had been one of the worst years in memory for the tourism sector, with the number of visitors up almost 2%. He went on to say that whilst the hotels had seen higher average room occupancies than the previous year there had been no improvement in the average price achieved for the sale of each room night as hotels continued to struggle with consumers' demands for discounted prices. He said that visitors had cut back across the Board with many tourism related businesses

throughout the community as a whole complaining that visitors were spending less than in previous years. Mr. Hepple said that forecasts for the high season were reasonably positive although the loss of air seats out of the United States together with higher air fares could dampen demand. He expressed concern that the price of oil had reached in excess of \$90 a barrel and that this would translate into higher costs for our airline partners who would pass this increased cost on to their passengers in the form of higher fares or fees. The CEO said that consumer confidence was still low in our major North American and European markets but that opportunities for growth did exist in Brazil, Argentina, Colombia and other Latin American

countries which had suffered less from the global recession. He said that because of the weakness in our primary markets tourism businesses in Aruba would find it difficult to charge higher prices which was a particular concern when the costs of doing business continued to rise. Given these challenges Mr. Hepple welcomed the fact that a new "independentized" Aruba Tourism Authority would be coming into existence early in 2011 with an enhanced marketing budget, new management, and a joint public/private Board to guide its marketing efforts. The CEO said that this new initiative would go a long way to making Aruba more competitive and to achieve its primary goal of growing revenues from tourism. □

## Dia di Betico celebration at Seaport Casino

ORANJESTAD – The Seaport Casino will be a hub of activities on Dia di Betico, January 25th, 2011 with live entertainment and special promotions all day.

Caha di orgel Nos Ambiente will entertain from 10am to 2pm and patrons are invited to come early and buy their bingo tickets, as Dia di Betico Bingo starts at 2pm, with over Awg 4,000 in prizes.

Bingo tickets are Awg 15 for 4 bingo cards of 8 bingo game.

Slot players would be pleased to hear that double points will be awarded

between 4:30pm and 11:00pm, and to complete the great day's program a free slot tournament starts at 8pm.

The casino will be serving free local snacks, and hopes to entertain many people on Aruba's beloved national holiday, dedicated to the Father of the Nation.

Another much-enjoyed grand bingo event planned for the Renaissance Convention Center is the upcoming bingo party on February 5th, when Friends of the Handicapped will be hosting their annual fund raising event. □





Marriott guests keep coming back to Aruba

# New Yorkers “sprinkle” Aruba with love



PALM BEACH – Today, a group of Aruba-lovers will return back to New York if weather permits. The group of 30 plus friends have been visiting Aruba consecutively for the past 16 years and enjoying every second of the day they are on the island. Some of them come back several times a year as many own timeshare at the Aruba



Marriott Resorts. They all have several things in common; the love for Aruba and a common business in sprinkler and lawn systems. The group started out staying at the Divi Resorts a decade

and a half ago, later to the Allegro (aka the Occidental Grand) and now the group stays at the Marriott's Vacation Surf and Ocean Clubs. The group of Distinguished Guests of Aruba are pictured

enjoying a BBQ in between the Marriott's Ocean and Surf Clubs on Wednesday afternoon right before the sun gently set into the Caribbean Sea. □

~ Photos by Julia Renfro

Don't miss the show tonight

## Angela Croes is back by popular demand at Casa Tua Barcelona



ORANJESTAD - What a surprise!!! This old warehouse transformed into a typical Spanish or Italian town's square, with its gurgling fountain, French lamp-post and lime-washed walls features an open Pizza

Atelier, under a small country hut, covered with old hand-made roof tiles. Opened downtown Oranjestad two years ago, the restaurant dishes reflect this inter-cultural relationship of Spanish, French and

Italian cuisine, all served in a friendly, casual setting. On the menu, a wide variety of Spanish Tapas, appetizers starting at \$2.95, and plentiful Paellas, made daily, filled with mussels, clams, shrimp, pork loin and chicken. The menu also boats famous Pata Negra ham, Chorizo, and other specialty dry-cured pork sausage.

Naturally, the restaurant's whole Grilled Red Snapper, fresh fish fillets and beef tenderloins are all cooked "Ala Plancha," with just a sprinkle of olive oil, representing a healthy Mediterranean lifestyle. Patrons also favor the restaurant irresistible thin-crust pizza, baked according to a secret family recipe, topped with Casa Tua infused spicy olive oil, a signature condiment for Casa Tua restaurants on the Island. To complete this Spanish experience and make it truly unforgettable, Angela Croes, the local Song-Diva,



a native of Spain, a golden recording artist, will perform all Wednesdays and Fridays from 8pm with her daughter and Spanish-Aruban guitar talents.

You really don't want to miss such an enchanting voice and spectacular show. From the dramatic Spanish ballads to the catchy warm Flamenco music of the Gypsy Kings, Angela delivers a night of fun and emotion.... Special food combos are available for lunch weekdays,

starting at \$8.95 p/p. Birthday parties? Wedding Rehearsal Dinners? Family Reunions, we love those, and always take very good care of our guests!

Open from 11:00 am to 10:00 pm Monday to Saturday  
5:00 pm to 10:00 pm Sunday  
Located downtown first floor Aventura Mall behind The Renaissance Resort  
Telephone: 588-5695



*The Asian Bistro hosts*

# An Appreciation Lunch for the Sunset Grille crew of the Radisson



PALM BEACH – The entire Sunset Grille crew enjoyed the gracious hospitality of the Asian Bistro at the South Beach Centre over lunch.

Food & Beverage Gerard Coste, the hard-working team of the Sunset Grille had many reasons to celebrate.

We got together, says Invited by the Director of Coste, to express the

resort's appreciation for the staff members who helped the restaurant achieve the distinguished American Automobile Association (AAA) Four Diamond award for the eighth



consecutive year, and recognize them for their standard of excellence and dedication. The Sunset Grille, at the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa is the resort's signature restaurant, and features an exhibition-style kitchen, an elegant dining room paired with exquisite terrace views, over the Palm Beach tree-tops. The restaurant was very busy during the holiday season, thus the

appreciation luncheon also served to show gratitude for the staff's ability to operate so well under pressure. Rugia Cilie, the Food and Beverage Department secretary was queen for the day, as she celebrated her birthday at J.H. Yee's with her peers over award-winning creative specialties of Asian flavors melding traditional dishes with contemporary combinations. □





# Salt & Pepper shows team spirit



PALM BEACH - The staff of Salt & Pepper Tapas Bar and Restaurant got the team spirit going by having a bowling

competition. Bowling is a yearly returning event with the staff of Salt & Pepper because this turned out to be the safest



until now. No broken arms, blue eyes or bruised ankles. In different teams everybody went for the strikes and spares to win one of the prizes, of course with a lot of fun and laughter. Lucienne was going really well with her strikes but unfortunately not good enough to win a prize. It was clear that the ones working at Salt & Pepper the longest were the best since Stefan won the first prize. He is a familiar face on the floor for already 6 years. The newest member won the last prize which was a gift certificate for bowling to practice some more. A coincidence? We



will find out next year. The night didn't stop at bowling, karaoke and dancing were still to come... You can spot some more pictures of this fun staff night out on Salt & Pepper's Facebook.

Salt & Pepper is located in Arawak Garden high rise area, in front of Occidental Hotel. Open every day from 8 am till 1 am for breakfast, lunch & dinner. Free sangria with your meal between 5-7 pm. □

## Buccaneer January Special

3 Course Entree \$23.95 per person

### Appetizer

Fish Soup  
Chicken Soup  
Escargot  
Crab Cakes

### Entree

Breaded Fresh Catch With Coconut Shrimp  
8 oz. Twin Tenderloin with Mushrooms  
Roasted Half Chicken

### Dessert

Carmel Flan  
Ice Cream  
Coffee or Tea

For Reservations  
Please call (297) 586-6172  
or email us at :  
info@buccaneeraruba.com



Cannot be combined with any promotions

Join us 6 days a week  
Monday- Saturday  
5:30pm - 10pm  
Located between hi & low rises

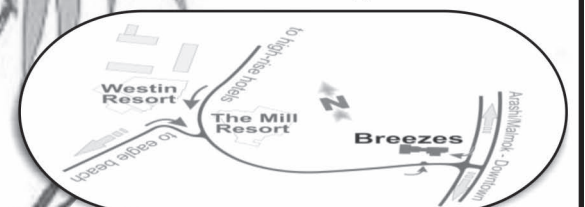
Come on in and relax with 3 Decades of delicious entrees served by our friendly staff and dine under our underwater grotto setting.

## Breezes Restaurant & Bamboo Lounge

"We dare to be deliciously different"

Make the Breezes Experience a Must! on your vacation and be amazed with Quality, Service and Superb Caribbean and International Cuisine

Fresh Seafood - USDA Prime Steaks  
- Lamb & Poultry



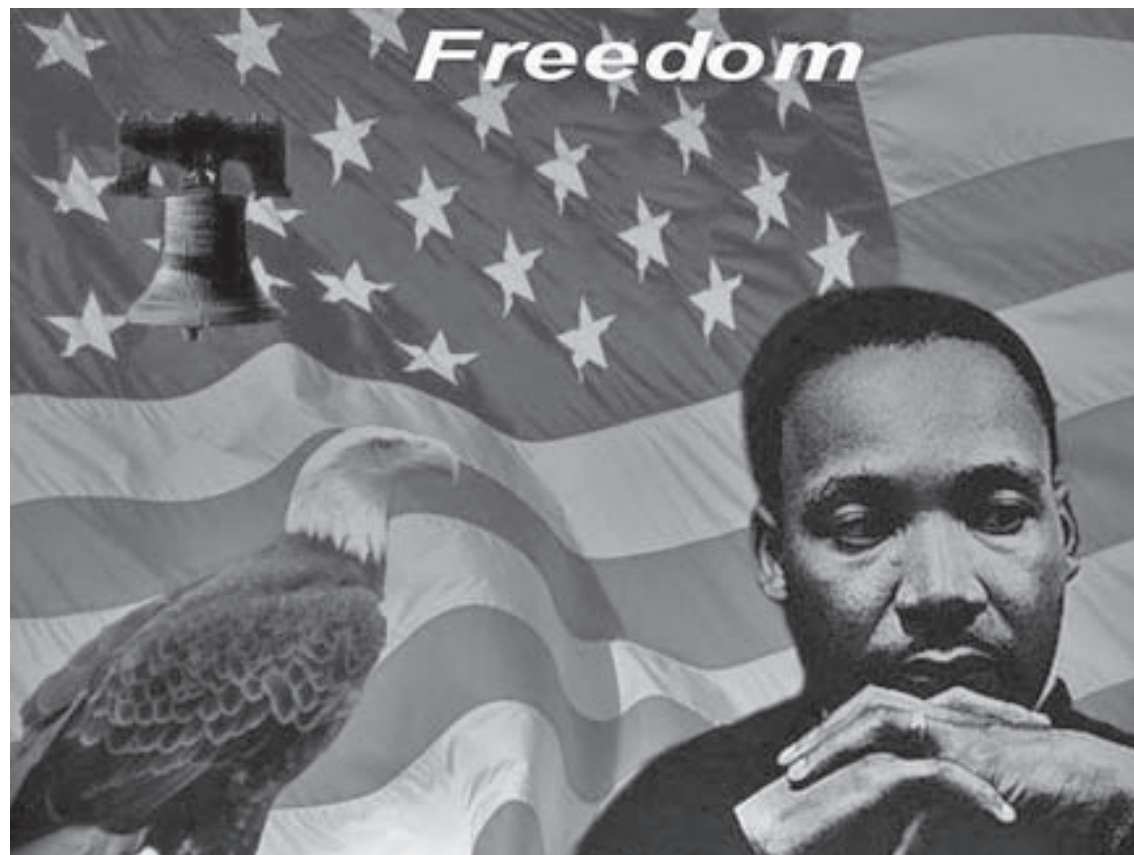
Open daily from 5:30PM-10:00PM  
Conveniently located past the  
Old Dutch Mill on the corner  
of Sasaki Highway.  
Look for the 2-story building  
Reservation recommended  
at Tel : 586-1115

DON'T MISS OUR WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY  
ENTERTAINMENT FROM 6:00PM - 8:00PM

10% Discount on F&B  
(cannot be combined with any other promotion)



# Dr. King's Dinner Conversations



Had the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., survived the struggles of the civil rights movement and gone on to lead a long, healthy life, he would be waking up this weekend to his eighty-second birthday. Instead, we have a national holiday in his name, and we celebrate his memory. Keeping that memory alive will always be important to me. It is important to me just as it ought to be to any other African-American to any other American, period, really. But it is especially important to me because it takes me back to so many things I learned at the dinner table as a child. Yes, we actually used to sit around the dinner table as a family both parents and four children and we would talk about the issues of the day. Imagine that. And it was nothing unusual for the topic

of race relations to be a focal point. To my parents, Martin Luther King was not some faraway figure on the page of a newspaper or the screen of a television. He was someone they had known. They had marched with him in the streets of Alabama when I was just a baby, and King had even baptized my two older brothers. Most of what I have learned about the history of the civil rights movement has come from books and television. But the feelings of people who actually experienced the bus boycotts, the fire hoses being turned on them, the senseless beatings and killings those are the intense feelings I picked up from my parents at a very young age. Once I was old enough to understand, my mother

would tell me: "It was a time of sacrifice. But sometimes if you want to make things better, you have to sacrifice first." Some of the sacrifices were unspeakable. One of my father's closest friends was a man named Chris McNair. His little girl, Denise, was one of four children killed in a 1963 bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham. Clearly, the concept of sacrifice for the betterment of others for the betterment of our nation as a whole is a pretty good place to start when celebrating the memory of Martin Luther King. Another topic that needs to be at the forefront of any conversation related to King is the vital importance of education. King would undoubtedly be proud of the

way some African-Americans have stressed school, but overall I'm afraid he'd be pretty disappointed. Back in the 1960s blacks were hardly even allowed to participate in the political process, but they sure knew the issues of the day. Now we can vote all we want, but do we even have the education to understand the issues? Our young people should not be offended by the idea of reading books. They should be reading all the books they can get their hands on. We simply must do a better job of educating ourselves. Finally, if we are truly going to honor the memory of Martin Luther King, then we need to stress the importance of community service. We need to give of ourselves in order to address social ills such as hunger, poverty, and homelessness. We need to come together across all lines and divisions that too often keep us apart and we need to embrace

solutions that will bring broad benefits for all. That is why I'm so excited about a special program in honor of Martin Luther King that I will be part of on the eve of Martin Luther King Day at the Newseum in Washington, D.C. It is called America's Sunday Supper. Just like the dinner conversations of my youth, the idea is to initiate conversation thousands of conversations across the country, actually focused on the most pressing social issues we face in our communities. Thanks to the efforts of an organization called HandsOn Network, more than a thousand volunteers will lead similar thought-provoking and action-inspiring meals across the nation. Sometimes I wonder how Martin Luther King would feel about where we have come as a nation. Sunday night will certainly be one of those times when I can't help but think about that. □

## Wikipedia Turns Ten: What's Next?

WASHINGTON, DC – Raise your hand if you've been tricked at least once by erroneous information on Wikipedia. It happens. But as the online, reader-edited encyclopedia turns 10 this Saturday, commenters are finding plenty to praise about the site as it tries to find ways to "keep narrowing the useful-reliable gap." Wikipedia is now an indispensable online resource, though often taken for granted (one reason why Wikimedia foundation launched a \$16 million fundraising plea last year). On the eve of its anniversary, founder Jimmy

Wales has been sharing with the media his evolving vision for the future. Here's how reporters are reacting to the plans, and commemorating ten years of Wikipedia: Where Will It Be Ten Years From Now? Mike Melanson at Read Write Web speaks with Jimmy Wales and executive director Sue Gardner and notes their plans for Wikipedia's growth: diversifying the languages of entries, building a "truly global" representation of authors, "robust" partnerships with major academic

centers, libraries, galleries and museums and "more presence in the emerging mobile space." On the other hand, the site apparently has no plans to challenge Facebook or YouTube. "The core of what we do is already quite usable," said Wiki spokesman Jay Walsh. If Wales Had Commercialized Wikipedia, He Could've Been Worth Billions, figures the Guardian's Timothy Garton Ash, who nonetheless praised the founder as "the best example of online idealism" available □



**Editor -in-Chief**  
Julia C. Renfro

**Managing Director**  
John A. Chemaly Jr.

**Contributing Editor**  
Dilma Arends

**International Editor**  
Richard Brooks

**Sales Team**  
Elly Erasmus  
Marijke Croes  
Wendy Kelboom

**Page Designer**  
Dina Maria

**Advertising Coordinator**  
Sandra Loeffstop-Duarte  
[aviso@bondia.com](mailto:aviso@bondia.com)  
[bondia.aruba@gmail.com](mailto:bondia.aruba@gmail.com)

**Caribbean Speed Printing N.V.**  
Weststraat #22  
Oranjestad, Aruba  
Tel: (297) 582-7800  
Fax: 582-7044

[www.arubatoday.com](http://www.arubatoday.com)  
E-mail: [news@arubatoday.com](mailto:news@arubatoday.com)



**BIDEN**

*Continued from Front Page*

“The Iraqi people for the first time, I suspect, I would argue, in their history are on the verge of literally creating a country that will be democratic, sustainable and, God willing, prosperous,” Biden told the troops at the military’s headquarters on the outskirts of Baghdad.

“It could have a dramatic impact on this entire region, and God knows the Iraqi people deserve it.”

The White House has promised to end the war responsibly. “By that we meant we were going to end this by bringing you all home within a time certain, but leaving behind a country that was worthy of all the sacrifices that so many of your brothers and sisters have made,” Biden told the troops. More than 4,400 U.S. troops have died since the 2003 invasion and an estimated 32,000 have been wounded. Biden’s trip marks the first visit by a top U.S. official since Iraq approved a new Cabinet last month, breaking a political deadlock and jump-starting its stalled government after March’s inconclusive elections. But lingering security challenges remain: On Thursday, three bombings in the capital killed two people.

The address to U.S. troops

capped a daylong series of meetings in Baghdad, including a session with Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki. Biden then traveled to Irbil in northern Iraq to meet with Kurdish President Massoud Barzani.

Under a security agreement between Washington and Baghdad that was hammered out in 2008, all American troops are to leave Iraq by the end of the year. However, Iraq’s top military commander, Gen. Babaker Shawkat Zebari, has said U.S. troops should stay until Iraq’s security forces can defend its borders — which he said could take until 2020.

An aide to Biden said the vice president reiterated Washington’s longtime position that the Americans would listen to any request by the Iraqi government for troops to stay longer but that Baghdad has not yet asked them to do so. The official did not want to be identified because of the sensitivity of the talks.

Al-Maliki, under pressure from hardline Shiite Muslims, has signaled he wants American troops to leave on schedule. Last weekend, the influential and anti-American cleric Muqtada al-Sadr returned to Iraq after nearly four years of exile in Iran, in part to insist that the U.S. “occupiers” must leave on



U.S. Vice President Joe Biden, center, is seen with Ambassador to Iraq James F. Jeffrey, left, and Gen. Lloyd Austin, the top U.S. commander in Iraq, in Baghdad, Iraq, Thursday, Jan. 13, 2011. Biden arrived in Iraq early Thursday for talks with the new government’s leaders about the future of American troops in the country as they prepare to leave at year’s end.

*Associated Press*

time or face retribution among his followers “by all the means of resistance.”

A spokesman for al-Maliki, Ali al-Dabbagh, said both sides during the meeting between his boss and Biden “committed themselves to the date of withdrawal” and emphasized that the departure date of U.S. troops is fixed. Iraq must walk a careful line, balancing its relationship with the United States and

its Shiite-majority neighbor, Iran, to the east. Iran views a continued U.S. military presence along its western border with suspicion and is believed to be lobbying its Iraqi allies to adhere to the timeline.

Both Washington and Baghdad

had refused to discuss publicly any possibility of U.S. troops staying until after Iraq installed its new government. Biden congratulated Iraq on accomplishing that political feat, which took months of negotiations. □

# Gates: U.S. can sail in waters China says restricted

ANNE GEARAN

AP National Security Writer

TOKYO (AP) — U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates says even as the U.S. military relationship with China improves there is at least one area of continued disagreement. Gates says the U.S. won’t back off its insistence on “freedom of navigation.” That’s a euphemism for the U.S. view that it has the right to sail its ships in waters that China claims as restricted. Gates says freedom of shipping and commerce have been basic principles for the United States since its founding.

He also tells students at Japan’s Keio University that



Japanese Defense Minister Toshimi Kitazawa, left, speaks as U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates looks on during their joint press conference following their meeting at the Defense Ministry in Tokyo Thursday, Jan. 13, 2011.

*Associated Press*

China’s military sometimes does things without telling the country’s senior political leadership. He says that the

communist party has firm control over the military, but “sometimes there are disconnects.” □

## Are you The Best!

Attention Top Performers  
Sales, Hospitality, Retail, Time Share  
Sales Managers, Insurance, Real Estate  
Recent Grads and

Future Leaders!  
We have the NEW position for You!

## Become our Top Sales Producer

- Average need not apply!
- We will train you!
- **Paid training**
- Strong minded leaders wanted
- **Quality of life work schedule**
- Fast track management program
- **EXPERIENCE REQUIRED**
- Excellent incentives
- **DYNAMIC PEOPLE ONLY!**
- Likeable personality
- **Aggressive**

**NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE**

All applicants will receive an immediate interview!

Apply in person TODAY!

Ask for human resources

Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.  
Weststraat #22, P.O. Box #14





Local residents look on as a United Nations vehicle, set on fire by militant student supporters of Laurent Gbagbo, burns in the Riviera 2 neighborhood of Abidjan, Ivory Coast, Thursday, Jan. 13, 2011. Thursday's attack on a U.N. vehicle follows two days of deadly clashes between security forces and residents of a neighborhood allied to Gbagbo's rival, Alassane Ouattara, as the West African nation's political stalemate continues.

Associated Press

## Colombia police nab go-between with Mexican cartel

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Police in Colombia say they've captured the chief go-between linking the country's cocaine suppliers and Mexico's Sinaloa cartel.

The Judicial police chief, Gen. Carlos Mena, says Julio Enrique Ayala Munoz is wanted for extradition to New York on drug trafficking-related charges. A 6.4 metric-ton cocaine shipment seized two weeks ago in the Pacific port of Buenaventura is believed to have belonged to him. Mena tells The Associated Press that Ayala was arrested in Cali, Colombia's third city, on Wednesday night with the assistance of U.S. drug agents. Mena says Ayala, a Colombian, has been working with the Sinaloa cartel for more than two years and owns 17 properties in Mexico including apartments, ranches and sailboats. □



**LOCATED AT THE HOLIDAY INN**

Black Jack, Craps, 3 Card Poker, Caribbean Stud  
Poker, Slots and daily Bingos!!!  
Only Casino in Aruba  
Where dealer stands on  
Soft 17

### SPORTS BOOK

No charge or tax on winnings

Live simulcast of all major tracks  
Highest limits in Aruba

### POKER ROOM

Tournaments

**Mondays & Tuesdays at 6:30 PM \$10**

**Wednesdays & Thursdays at 6:30 PM \$25**

**Fridays at 7:00 PM \$50**

**Saturdays at 7:00 PM Freeze out \$150**

**Sundays at 7:00 PM Freeze out \$100**

(Tournaments are subject to charge as per Management criteria)

Lady Luck is waiting for you at Excelsior Casino!!

# Lithuania to Belarus: Reconsider OSCE eviction



Lithuania's Foreign Minister Audronius Azubalis adjusts his glasses before a session of the Permanent Council of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, OSCE, at Vienna's Hofburg palace, Austria, on Thursday, Jan. 13, 2011. Lithuania took over the annual chairmanship of the OSCE on January 1.

Associated Press

### VERONIKA OLEKSYN

Associated Press

VIENNA (AP) — Belarus should rethink its closure of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe's mission in the country and allow it to have a "meaningful" presence there, the group's new Lithuanian chairman said Thursday.

On Dec. 31, Belarus refused to extend the mandate of the OSCE's operations on its turf. The announcement came after the Vienna-based body accused President Alexander Lukashenko of

using fraudulent counting in Dec. 19 elections to win almost 80 percent of the vote and condemned the violent dispersal of a protest rally by riot police after polls closed. "I deeply regret that ... Belarus has withdrawn consensus for the continuation of the OSCE office in Minsk," Lithuanian Foreign Minister Audronius Azubalis said in his first speech to OSCE delegates in the Austrian capital's historic Hofburg Palace. "I call for reconsideration of this decision."

Talking to reporters

## BENLO CIGARS

*Import & Export • We ship all over the world • Tel.: 5863555*  
*Located in the Arowak Garden, next to Salt & Pepper, Paparazzi and Tango Restaurant.*

---

*We are specialized in premium Cuban Cigars.*  
*Opening hours: Mon. - Sat. 8:30am - 11:00pm*  
*Sunday 9:00am - 11:00pm*

**Depending on purchase, we have discounts starting from 5% up to 20%.**  
**With purchase of \$20 or more 1 FREE CIGAR**

**Bring this coupon for your free Cuban Cigar!**

Tel: 582-0697 / 583-7484  
Schotland str. 70

**Extend your Stay at**  
Quality Apartments

\*Studio & Loft Apts.

\*Kitchen / Airco / Cable TV

Less than 1 mile from Eagle Beach & 4 large supermarkets.

Feel free to contact or visit us.

Mon - Fri: 8am-7pm. Sat & Sun: 9am-5pm.



afterward, Azubalis described Belarus' justification that the 14-person office was being closed because it had fulfilled its mandate as unconvincing. Discussions were under way in the aim of ensuring future cooperation that would be beneficial to Belarusian society, he added.

"We want to see a meaningful presence of (the) OSCE in Belarus," he said. "That's why we are continuing our dialogue with colleagues from Belorussia on different levels."

The OSCE has had a presence in the Belarusian capital of Minsk since 1998 and worked on a range of projects.

Benedikt Haller, the former head of the office, said that before the closure announcement he had received no indication from Belarusian officials that they considered the mission's mandate to be fulfilled.

Speaking solely as Lithuanian foreign minister, Azubalis suggested sanctions could be imposed if Belarus failed to take major steps such as releasing people arrested during protests alleging vote fraud and allowing them access to medical care.

"If we will not see any significant progress in Belarus, Lithuania's position, of course, will be that some sanctions are unavoidable," he said, adding he has told Belarusian officials they still have time to take "appropriate measures."

On Wednesday, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said Europe should discuss reviving sanctions against Belarus in the wake of its flawed poll.

Lithuania assumed the rotating, one-year chairmanship of the 56-nation OSCE on Jan. 1.

The OSCE was born in the 1970s to nurture rapprochement between Cold War enemies; along with European countries, it includes the United States, Canada and former Soviet Central Asian republics. □



# 464 die in Brazil mudslides, survivors relate horrors

JULIANA BARBASSA

Associated Press

TERESOPOLIS, Brazil (AP)

— The power was out, but lightning flashes illuminated the horror as villagers watched neighbors' homes vanish under a wall of mud and water, turning neighborhoods into graveyards. Survivors dug at the earth barehanded Thursday, but all they found were bodies.

It was a scene of muddy destruction in mountain towns north of Rio, where at least 464 people were killed when torrential rains unleashed mudslides in the pre-dawn hours Wednesday, burying people alive as they slept. Officials would not venture guesses on how many people were missing — but fears were high that the death toll could sharply rise.

In the remote Campo Grande neighborhood of Teresopolis, now accessible only by a perilous five-mile (eight-kilometer) hike through mud-slicked jungle, family

members pulled the lifeless bodies of loved ones from the muck.

They carefully laid the corpses on dry ground, covering them with blankets.

A young boy cried out as his father's body was found: "I want to see my dad! I want to see my dad!"

Flooding and mudslides are common in Brazil when the summer rains come, but this week's slides were among the worst in recent memory. The disasters unduly punish the poor, who often live in rickety shacks perched perilously on steep hillsides with little or no foundations. But even the rich did not escape the damage in Teresopolis, where large homes were washed away.

"I have friends still lost in all of this mud," said Carols Eurico, a resident of the city's Campo Grande neighborhood, as he motioned to a sea of destruction behind him. "It's all gone.

It's all over now. We're putting ourselves in the hands



A framed photograph of a child sits among debris near a destroyed home after a landslide in Teresopolis, Rio de Janeiro state, Brazil, Thursday Jan. 13, 2011. At least 350 people have died after landslides hit early Wednesday, and 50 or more were still missing, according to officials.

of God."

In the same area, Nilson Martins, 35, carefully held the only thing pulled out alive since dawn: a pet rabbit that had somehow remained pristinely white despite the

mud.

"We're just digging around, there is no way of knowing where to look," he said.

"There are three more bodies under the rubble over there. One seems to be a girl, no

Associated Press

more than 16, dead, buried under that mud."

The hundreds of homes washed away in the neighborhood were turned inside out, their plumbing and electrical wires exposed. Children's clothes littered the earth, cars were tossed upside down into thickets. An eerie quiet prevailed as people searched for life. The sounds of digging, with sticks and hands, were occasionally punctuated by shouts as another corpse was located.

Conceicao Salomao, a doctor coordinating relief efforts at a makeshift refuge inside a gymnasium in central Teresopolis, said about 750 people were staying there Thursday and about 1,000 people had sought treatment in the past day. One danger she worried about was leptospirosis, a waterborne bacterial disease.

"The hospitals around here are overflowing. The army and navy are setting up field hospitals to help," she said.

"The worst is the feeling of impotence. We do what we can, but there are so many people."

Rio state's Civil Defense department said on its website that 210 people were killed in Teresopolis, 214 in nearby Nova Friburgo and 40 in neighboring Petropolis. It said about 14,000 people had been driven from their homes. □



Sri Lankan flood victims watch draining flood water from a water reservoir in Ampara, about 125 miles east of Colombo, Sri Lanka, Monday, Jan. 10, 2011. Sri Lanka's government says that at least nine people have been killed in floods and mudslides caused by heavy rain across the country.

Associated Press

BHARATHA MALLAWARACHI

Associated Press

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — Sri Lanka is hospitalizing pregnant women and young children to shield them from waterborne diseases in districts where floods have brought sewage into the streets, a health official said Thursday.

Days of heavy rain have triggered widespread floods and mudslides, mainly in the island's Eastern Province. Five more deaths were reported Thursday, bringing the toll to 23, Pradeep Kodippili of the Disaster Management Center said. One person was reported missing and 36 others injured.

Amid the floods, sewage lines and tanks have overflowed in many villages, and Health Ministry spokesman Dharma Wanninayake said officials are concerned about diseases like typhoid and diarrhea.

He said doctors working in affected areas have been asked to hospitalize women who are nearly nine months pregnant and

## Sri Lanka prepares for flood-borne diseases

children under 5 years old.

The measure will help slow infection rates and allow the most vulnerable to be treated quickly, he said.

More than a million people have been affected by the rains, and 325,000 have been forced from their homes. Many villages in Eastern Province have been inundated, with some cut off from supplies. Nine villages in the eastern Trincomalee district are isolated with only sea access, said N. Selvanayagam, a local government official. Food and medical supplies are running low in those areas, leaving tens of thousands of people in need, said Mohammad Jihad, a community leader.

Wanninayake said special teams of doctors and health inspectors have been dispatched to work in camps housing the displaced people and mobile clinics set up.

The government has deployed 28,000 armed forces and police personnel with boats and helicopters to help with rescue and relief for affected people.

The United Nations and other aid agencies have stepped in to provide food, sleeping mats, water tanks, purification tablets and hygiene kits.

Badly hit Eastern Province has been recovering from a quarter century of violence during a civil war fought by Tamil Tigers seeking a separate state for minority Tamils. Government troops defeated the rebels in 2009.

"In recent years these communities have suffered major blows; many of them have been caught up in years of conflict, in the wake of the 2004 tsunami and now these floods," U.N. Children's Fund Sri Lanka Representative Reza Hossaini said in a statement.

"Many families were only just returning home after years of displacement ... now they all face this latest severe setback." □



# Australia floods recede to reveal extent of damage

**JOHN PYE,**  
**Associated Press**  
BRISBANE, Australia (AP) — Parts of Australia's third-largest city reopened Friday as deadly floodwaters that had swamped entire neighborhoods receded, revealing streets and thousands of homes covered in a thick layer of putrid sludge.

Garbage trucks moved through Brisbane's muddy streets and some residents dragged ruined furniture out of their homes as the massive cleanup began following one of Australia's worst natural disasters.

In towns upstream of Brisbane, soldiers picked their way through debris looking for more victims. Weeks of flooding across Australia's northeast have caused 25 deaths, and 55 people were still missing.

"There is a lot of heartache and grief as people start to see for the first time what has happened to their homes and their streets," Queensland state Premier Anna Bligh said. "In some cases, we have street after street after street where every home has been inundated to the roof level."

The muddy waters swamped 30,000 homes and businesses in Brisbane. One man drowned Thursday when he was sucked into a storm drain as he tried to check on his father's home in an inundated Brisbane neighborhood. Officials expected to find more bodies farther upstream as they finally got access to hamlets struck by flash flooding on Monday.

Most of the people tallied as missing are from around Toowoomba, a city west of Brisbane in the Lockyer Valley where a sudden downpour caused a flash flood likened to an inland tsunami.

Dramatic video captured the power of the roaring water: A yacht ripped from its moorings rocketed down the river and suddenly sank after hitting a submerged object. Two men on board were thrown into the water and



**A street is flooded in the city center of Brisbane, Australia, Thursday, Jan. 13, 2011. Floodwaters washing through Australia's third-largest city crested Thursday just shy of record levels but high enough to submerge entire neighborhoods and cause damage one official likened to the aftermath of war.**

*Associated Press*

rescued by people on a small aluminum boat nearby.

Bligh warned the cleanup task would be of "postwar proportions." Water was still high in some areas Friday, but had pulled back dramatically in others to reveal mountains of muddy wreckage. Officials asked the Australian Defence Force for a minesweeper to search the mouth of the river for sunken debris.

More than 60,000 homes were still without power across Queensland, and the military was delivering food, clothes and other supplies to areas still cut off by the waters.

Health officials warned people to throw out anything that had touched the contaminated waters. Throughout Brisbane, a sickening odor of spoiled food and the river's muck wafted through the air.

"What the city has to prepare itself for ... is the unbearable stench," Bligh said. "The smell of it is just unspeakable."

Brisbane resident Kirsten Norquay was trying to figure out how to break the news to her hospitalized sister that

everything she owns is now destroyed.

Norquay's sister, who is mentally ill, lives on the ground floor of their house and had no idea muddy floodwaters had ruined all of her belongings. She was due to be released from the hospital Friday, and Norquay feared she would have a breakdown when confronted by the devastating sight of the wreckage.

"We have like a massive pile of all her life's belongings on the front grass," she said. "The only thing I saved was her photos."

Police officers were patrolling Brisbane's flooded streets around the clock. Six people have been charged with looting.

The flooding across Queensland has submerged dozens of towns — some three times — after several weeks of driving rain fell in the tropical northeast. Highways and rail lines have been washed away, and the disaster is shaping up to be Australia's costliest. Damage estimates were already at \$5 billion before the floodwaters swamped Brisbane. □

## Envoy allowed to meet with jailed American in Cuba

**PAUL HAVEN**

**Associated Press**

HAVANA (AP) — Cuba allowed a visiting U.S. State Department envoy to meet on Thursday with a jailed American contractor whose case has been a stumbling block to improved relations between the two Cold War enemies.

State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley said Roberta Jacobsen, a deputy assistant secretary of state for Western Hemisphere affairs, met with Alan Gross, who has been jailed without charge since Dec. 3, 2009. Cuban officials including President Raul Castro have accused him of spying.

Crowley had no details on where or when the meeting took place.

"We appreciate the fact that ... she had the opportunity to visit with him," he told reporters in Washington.

Meanwhile, a senior State Department official said Washington has heard encouraging signs from the Cuban government that Gross might be tried and allowed to return to the United States.

"I am cautiously optimistic because

of things we hear that that would be the case," said the official. When asked if the optimism was based on direct conversations with the Cuban government over the fate of Gross, the official responded: "Yes."

The official spoke on condition of anonymity due to the sensitive nature of the case. Jacobsen was in Havana to lead a U.S. delegation in regularly scheduled talks with their Cuban counterparts on immigration matters. She also met Thursday with several prominent Cuban dissidents as well as Jewish officials and leaders of the Roman Catholic Church, Crowley said.

Cuba reacted strongly to Jacobsen's decision to meet with the dissidents, saying it "confirmed once again that there is no change in the U.S. policy of subversion and meddling in Cuba's internal affairs."

The Foreign Ministry said Jacobsen was warned not to use the official visit as an excuse to meet with the dissidents, who Cuba considers to be mercenaries paid by Washington to destabilize the

government.

It called the meeting an "open provocation," a "flagrant violation" of international norms and an "offense against our people." U.S. government officials counter that they maintain a dialogue with members of "civil society," including those in opposition, in countries around the world.

The scenario painted about Gross by the senior State Department official — along with the visit with the prisoner — were the most encouraging signs to date that the case might be nearing a resolution, possibly with Gross being tried, convicted and sentenced to time already served, or granted a pardon or commuted sentence of some sort.

U.S. officials have said repeatedly that Gross's imprisonment is an obstacle to improved relations with Cuba.

However, the official cautioned that the encouraging words from Havana won't mean anything unless the Cuban government follows up, presumably by finally bringing charges against Gross so a trial can proceed. □



# Laver: "Rafa Slam" not a true Grand Slam

Spain's Rafael Nadal smiles as he takes a break during a practice session on Rod Laver Arena in Melbourne, Australia, Thursday, Jan. 13, 2011. Nadal is preparing for the Australian Open tennis championship which begins here Monday Jan. 17.

Associated Press  
PAGE B7



## SPORTS Aruba TODAY

On Top Of The News E-mail:news@arubatoday.com Website:www.arubatoday.com Tel:582-7800 Friday, January 14, 2011

### Play washed out at Sony Open in Hawaii



Palm trees are reflected in water on the ninth fairway at Waialae Country Club, Thursday, Jan. 13, 2011, in Honolulu.

Associated Press

#### DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

HONOLULU (AP) — The opening round of the Sony Open was washed out on Thursday because of heavy overnight rain that left too much water on Waialae Country Club.

Once the sun came up and officials could see, it was a quick decision. Some fairways and bunkers were filled with large puddles.

"The golf course is under water," U.S. PGA Tour event director Mark Russell said.

"We've got some more rain coming, and we just didn't think that we could get it in tournament condition today." The plan is to play the opening two rounds on Friday and Saturday, with 36 holes on Sunday. The cut will be the nearest number to 60 players, although everyone in the top 70 will get credit for making the cut and will get paid. □

## BROWNS hire Shurmur



This July 31, 2010 file photo shows St. Louis Rams offensive coordinator Pat Shurmur during NFL football training camp at the team's training facility, in St. Louis.  
Associated Press  
PAGE B4

### PEACE TALK

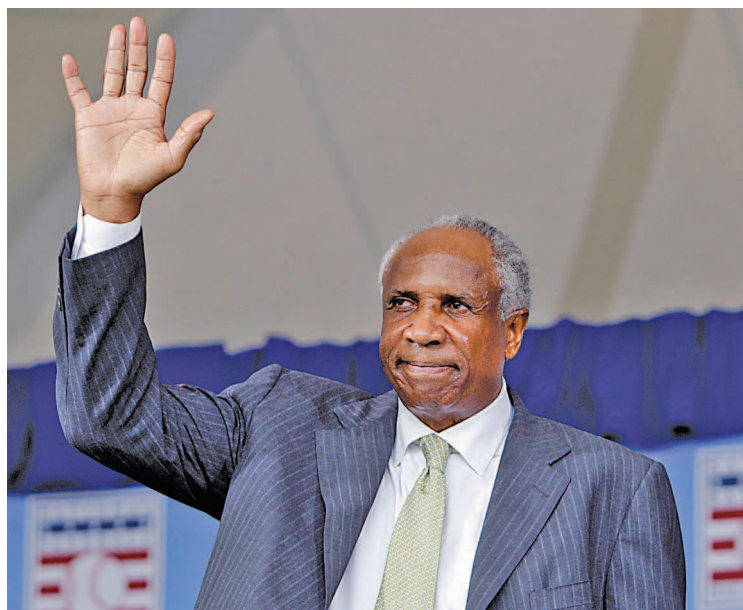


Baseball commissioner Bud Selig speaks at a news conference during baseball's general managers meetings in Lake Buena Vista, Fla., Thursday, Nov. 18, 2010.

Associated Press  
Page B2



# Unlike NFL and NBA, baseball basks in labor peace



Baseball commissioner Bud Selig speaks at a news conference during baseball's general managers meetings in Lake Buena Vista, Fla., Thursday, Nov. 18, 2010.

By **BOB BAUM**  
AP Sports Writer

PARADISE VALLEY, Ariz. — Major League Baseball and its players' union will begin contract talks soon with none of the rancor and lockout threats that are plaguing the NFL and NBA.

"We're on a constructive path," Commissioner Bud Selig said.

Selig offered a rosy picture of the economics of the coming seasons on Thursday and praised the solid relationship that his staff has formed with the union.

The two-day gathering, described by Selig as "a non-controversial meeting," wrapped up at a quiet Phoenix-area resort on Thursday with a meeting of the special committee formed a year

*Associated Press*  
ago to come up with on-field changes for the game.

First on the agenda, Selig said, were three umpires to address the idea of expanding instant replay. The commissioner indicated he would like to proceed cautiously.

"In spite of the fact we've had 18 years of more change than ever before in the history of baseball," he said, "I'm still very cautious. Baseball is different. The pace of the game is very important."

More work needs to be done, Selig said, on the idea of expanding the playoffs by adding another wild-card team in each league.

"I feel good about it," he said. "I think there's a lot of interest but we have some detail to work out. That's really the crucial question."

Any changes to the use of replays or the addition of the wild-card playoff teams will not be implemented until 2012, at the earliest.

During his speech to the owners, Selig warned the clubs about overspending. The current labor contract expires in December.

Selig said that, looking back, "there was no reason for optimism" in the 2002 contract talks, which ended with an agreement just hours before players were to strike, but "it was a miracle right at the end."

In 2006, the sides announced an agreement before Game 3 of the World Series, nearly two months before the labor contract was set to expire.

Selig wouldn't predict that smooth a process this time, but he did note the tone of the negotiations had changed for the better.

"The one thing that is so really shockingly different in some ways is that back in the '70s, '80s, even starting in the late '60s, there was all the anger expressed," Selig said. "Owners mad at owners, owners mad at the

union, everybody mad at the commissioner, whoever that was at the time. You don't see or hear any of that the last five to 10 years."

The day began with a startling development when Hall of Famer Frank Robinson, senior vice president for baseball operations in the commissioner's office, experienced dizziness and a rapid heartbeat and was taken by ambulance to a nearby hospital. Selig said Robinson was doing well and that tests for any severe problems were negative. □

## Kitchen leads FSU to 66-61 upset of No. 1 Duke



Florida State's Chris Singleton, right, puts up a shot over Duke's Ryan Kelly in the first half of an NCAA college basketball game on Wednesday, Jan. 12, 2011 in Tallahassee, Fla.

*Associated Press*

By **BRENT KALLESTAD**  
Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Derwin Kitchen scored 22 points and Florida State pulled off its latest upset of No. 1 Duke, snapping the Blue Devils' 25-game winning streak with a 66-61 victory Wednesday night.

Chris Singleton added 18 points for Florida State (12-5, 2-1 Atlantic Coast Conference), which made five free throws in the final 33 seconds to hold off the defending national champions. It was the third time since 2002 that the Seminoles beat a top-ranked Duke team at home.

"We came together tonight," Singleton said. "It just feels good. If we can beat them we can beat anybody."

The Blue Devils (15-1, 2-1) hadn't lost since a 79-72 setback on March 3, 2010, at Maryland. From there, they

went on to win the ACC and NCAA tournaments for their fourth national title.

The 25-game winning streak was the second-longest in Duke history.

"They're very fundamentally sound. They play outstanding defense and they're committed to it," Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski said. "Their defense just dominated our offense for about 25 minutes in the ballgame."

The Seminoles led 28-24 at halftime and by as many as 11 early in the second half, but the game was tight to the finish.

Kyle Singler scored 20 points and Nolan Smith had 19 for the Blue Devils, who missed their first 10 3-point attempts and shot 31.1 percent overall, ending their dreams of a perfect season.

"We have not been in a game like that. They knocked us back," Krzyzewski said. "You just learn from the experience. We have a long way to go."

It was the fourth time Florida State has defeated a top-ranked team, including in 2002 and 2006 against Duke. FSU fans rushed the floor following the final buzzer, making for a garnett-and-gold mob scene at center court, and one was still climbing on the rim 15 minutes after the game ended.

Kitchen, a 6-foot-4 senior guard, scored 17 points in the second half and led the Seminoles with a team-high 10 rebounds for his second double-double of the season.

"I think our guys stuck with our game plan," Florida State coach Leonard Hamilton said. "They maintained their poise. We hit the big free throws down the stretch. I hope they understand now exactly the way they have to play in order to be successful."

Singleton's two free throws with 33 seconds left gave the Seminoles a 63-58 lead, but Smith's 3-pointer chopped the Duke deficit to two with 26.9 seconds remaining.

That was as close as the Blue Devils got. Michael Snaer hit a pair of free throws and Okaro White added another to seal it after Duke misfired at the other end.

Duke came into the game averaging nearly 88 points, having outscored its opponents by just under 25 points per game this season.

Florida State had lost three of four, including its past two games against Auburn and Virginia Tech.

Smith's 3 with 2:26 left pulled Duke to 59-58, but Kitchen countered with a baseline pull-up to give Florida State a 61-58 edge with 2:01 to go. Singler missed a 3-pointer with a minute remaining that would've tied the score.

Singler didn't get his first field goal until the opening minute of the second half on a goaltending call on Singleton, but then heated up quickly, hitting five of his next six shots from 3-point distance to help wipe out Florida State's 40-29 cushion early in the second half. □

**ECONOMY**

**CAR RENTAL**

- **LOW** rates
- **FREE** pick-up
- **FREE** delivery
- **FREE** road map
- **FAST** & friendly service



**PLEASE CALL US DIRECT:  
TEL: 583-0200**



## NHL Roundup

# Lightning beat Capitals to lead division

TAMPA, Florida (AP) — Tampa Bay goaltender Dwayne Roloson again kept Washington at bay to give the Lightning a 3-0 win Wednesday, moving clear of the Capitals atop the NHL's Southeast Division.

Roloson, acquired in a New Year's Day trade with the New York Islanders, made 23 saves to add this shutout to the 1-0 overtime win over Washington in his Lightning debut.

Dominic Moore, Sean Bergenheim and Simon Gagne scored for Tampa Bay.

## Penguins 5, Canadiens 2

In Montreal, Pittsburgh scored four power-play goals to beat Montreal and snap a rare three-game losing skid.

Alex Goligoski scored twice and added an assist for the

Penguins. Tyler Kennedy and Jordan Staal scored with the man advantage in the second period to give Pittsburgh a 3-2 lead. Goligoski, who opened the scoring at even strength in the first, and Chris Kunitz added power-play goals in the third.

David Desharnais and Tomas Plekanec scored for the Canadiens.

## Blackhawks 4, Avalanche 0

In Chicago, Corey Crawford made 24 saves for his second straight shutout, helping Chicago blank Colorado.

Dave Bolland and Fernando Pisani had a goal and an assist apiece for Chicago, which won the final regular-season meeting between the teams this season.

Troy Brouwer scored Chicago's first goal and



A helmet flies as Tampa Bay Lightning and Washington Capitals players mix it up during a second period fight in an NHL hockey game in Tampa, Fla., Wednesday, Jan. 12, 2011.

Associated Press

## Stanford hires David Shaw as football coach

By JANIE McCAULEY

AP Sports Writer

STANFORD, Calif. — If David Shaw has his way, he will never have to interview for another football coaching job. He is right where he has always felt he belonged: Stanford.

A head college coach at age 38, Shaw is ready to turn Stanford into a football powerhouse despite its tough academic standards.

"Since the day I started coaching, this is the job I always knew that I wanted," Shaw said. "Today's finally the day."

Shaw arrived as an assistant on the Stanford coaching staff with Jim Harbaugh four years

ago with the task of rebuilding a one-win team.

He was promoted Thursday to replace Harbaugh and maintain the Cardinal's place as a national contender following their most successful season in decades.

"We've got a good football team. We've got a team that's tough, that's physical, that's eager to pick up where we left off," Shaw said during his introductory news conference. "Our schemes are going to be the same. It's going to be very similar. We're going to be aggressive on defense. We're going to get after people on defense. We're going to be aggressive on offense." □

Jack Skille added a rebound goal in the third to help the Blackhawks win their third straight.

In Anaheim, Bobby Ryan's hat trick sparked Anaheim's defeat of St. Louis.

Ryan scored twice in the first period and completed his third career hat trick 30 seconds into the third. Ryan later scored his career-best fourth point with an assist on Corey Perry's score during Anaheim's four-goal third period.

Lubomir Visnovsky had a

power-play goal and two assists while Jonas Hiller made 30 saves for the Ducks, who won three straight to end a six-game homestand that catapulted them back into the Western Conference race.

David Backes scored twice for the Blues, winless in five straight games.

**In other NHL games it was Pittsburgh 5, Montreal 2; Tampa Bay 3, Washington 0; Chicago 4, Colorado 0; and Anaheim 7, St. Louis 4.** □





**The Promenade Restaurant**  
Sun Plaza Tel. 583-8899

## SPECIAL

### "ALL YOU CAN EAT"

not valid with other promotion

# \$30.00

only from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm  
CLOSED ON MONDAY

## THE CINEMAS thecinemas.aw

Valid till Jan 19

\*matinee: saturday - sunday | \*\*late show: friday & saturday

### AT RENAISSANCE

<b>TRON LEGACY 3D</b>	daily: 6:15 - 9:00		<b>NEW</b>
matinee:	11:45		
late show:	12:00		
<b>THE GREEN HORNET</b>	daily: 7:00 - 9:30		<b>NEW</b>
matinee:	12:00		
late show:	12:00		
<b>DIK TROM</b>	daily: 5:00 - 7:00		<b>NEW</b>
matinee:	1:00 - 3:00		
late show:	11:30		
<b>TANGLED</b>	daily: 1:15 - 3:45		
matinee:	5:00		
late show:	12:30 - 2:45		
<b>GULLIVER'S TRAVEL</b>	daily: 4:45 - 7:00 - 9:15		
matinee:	12:00 - 2:30		
late show:	11:30		
<b>LITTLE FOCKERS</b>	daily: 6:15 - 9:00		
matinee:	1:00 - 3:30		
late show:	11:30		
<b>HEREAFTER</b>	daily: 5:30 - 8:30		
matinee:	12:00 - 2:45		
late show:	11:15		
<b>NO PROBLEM</b>	daily: 9:00		
matinee:			
late show:			

### AT PASEO HERENCIA

<b>TRON LEGACY 3D</b>	daily: 6:30 - 9:15		<b>NEW</b>
matinee:	12:00		
late show:	12:00		
<b>THE GREEN HORNET</b>	daily: 6:45 - 9:15		<b>NEW</b>
matinee:	11:45		
late show:	11:45		
<b>NEW KIDS TURBO</b>	daily: 5:15 - 7:30 - 9:30		<b>NEW</b>
matinee:	12:45 - 3:00		
late show:	11:30		
<b>TANGLED</b>	daily: 4:00		
matinee:	1:45		
late show:	11:30		
<b>GULLIVER'S TRAVEL</b>	daily: 4:30		
matinee:	12:30 - 2:30		
late show:	11:30		
<b>HEREAFTER</b>	daily: 5:30 - 8:15		
matinee:	12:00 - 2:45		
late show:	11:00		
<b>LITTLE FOCKERS</b>	daily: 5:30 - 7:45 - 10:00		
matinee:	12:30 - 3:00		
late show:	12:15		
<b>TRUE GRIT</b>	daily: 4:30 - 7:00 - 9:45		
matinee:	2:00		
late show:	12:15		

Matinee: sat - sun | Late show: fri & sat



# Browns' hire Pat Shurmur as coach

**TOM WITHERS,**

**AP Sports Writer**

CLEVELAND (AP) — The Cleveland Browns hired St. Louis Rams offensive coordinator Pat Shurmur on Thursday, ending a search for their fifth coach since 1999 that began when Eric Mangini was fired on Jan. 3.

Shurmur was the first candidate interviewed by Browns president Mike Holmgren.

Chris Palmer, Butch Davis, Romeo Crennel and Mangini each failed in trying to build a consistent winner in Cleveland's expansion era. Now, it's Shurmur's turn. The 45-year-old, whose uncle, Fritz, worked under Holmgren at the Green Bay Packers, will take over an NFL team that has made just one playoff appearance in 13 years.

Mangini was fired after his second 5-11 win-loss season.

Shurmur has deep connections with Cleveland's front office. He spent eight years working with Browns general manager Tom Heckert. Shurmur never worked directly with Holmgren, but he learned the West Coast offense under Philadelphia coach Andy Reid, one of Holmgren's closest friends.

"I have the utmost respect for Coach Holmgren and Tom Heckert, and I am impressed with the direction in which they have this franchise going," Shurmur said.

Shurmur's hiring won't trigger any wild celebration or a rush to the ticket office by Browns fans, who have to trust Holmgren's keen eye for coaching talent.

Shurmur has a knack for developing young quarterbacks, and the Browns have a promising one in Colt McCoy.

At Philadelphia, Shurmur turned a raw Donovan McNabb into one of the game's best all-around quarterbacks, and this season he helped Rams rookie quarterback Sam Bradford live up to being the No. 1 overall draft pick. Bradford set rookie records for completions and attempts. □



In this Aug. 5, 2010 file photo, St. Louis Rams offensive coordinator Pat Shurmur jogs with members of the Rams during NFL football training camp at the team's training facility in St. Louis. The Cleveland Browns could have a new coach in hours. The team is in talks with Shurmur to succeed Eric Mangini and become its fifth coach since 1999. Shurmur's agent, Bob LaMonte, arrived at the Browns' headquarters on Thursday, Jan. 13, 2011 in Berea, Ohio, to negotiate with team president Mike Holmgren, who just happens to be one of his clients.

*Associated Press*

# Broncos hire former Panthers coach John Fox



In this Sept. 26, 2010, photo, then-Carolina Panthers coach John Fox reacts to a call in the first half of an NFL football game against the Cincinnati Bengals in Charlotte, N.C. The Denver Broncos hired Fox on Thursday, Jan. 13, 2011, to resurrect a downtrodden team. Fox's contract wasn't renewed by the Panthers following an NFL-worst 2-14 season.

*Associated Press*

**ARNIE STAPLETON**  
**AP Pro Football Writer**  
ENGLEWOOD, Colorado (AP) — The Denver Broncos hired John Fox on Thursday, hoping he's the right coach to turn around the downtrodden team. Fox beat out four other candidates to replace Josh McDaniels, who was fired on Dec. 6 amid the Broncos' worst slide in four decades and the embarrassing videotaping scandal around the Wembley game against San Francisco. "I am very thankful to Pat

Bowlen and John Elway for giving me the opportunity to coach a football team with such a proud tradition," Fox said in a statement. "The Broncos have a culture of winning, and I am excited to continue that legacy. I can't wait to get to work." The 55-year-old former Carolina coach went 78-74 including playoffs in nine seasons with the Panthers, who didn't renew his contract following an NFL-worst 2-14 season in 2010. Fox led the

Panthers to the 2004 Super Bowl.

Fox arrived in Denver on Wednesday to meet with new Broncos chief football executive John Elway after his flight out of North Carolina was delayed three times by winter weather. He was the fifth and final candidate interviewed.

Elway wrote on Twitter in announcing the hiring that Fox "is a dynamic and proven leader who will energize our entire organization."

"Coach Fox is a great fit for us not only with his coaching ability but also with his personality," Elway said in a statement. "He's coached great defenses, turned teams around and been to Super Bowls. We couldn't be more excited to have him lead our football team."

Denver is coming off a team-worst 4-12 season and is in need of a major makeover, much like the Panthers were when Fox arrived in 2002 following a 1-15 season. He led them to a 7-9 mark in his first year before guiding them to the Super Bowl in his second season. □

**WACKY WAHOO'S**  
PALM BEACH #33-A WWW.WACKYWAHOOS.COM  
**STEAK, SEAFOOD, B.B.Q. & FUN!**

Ex-Hadicurari BBQ & Grill with the same owner's.  
We do our own daily fishing so we serve the freshest seafood on the Island.

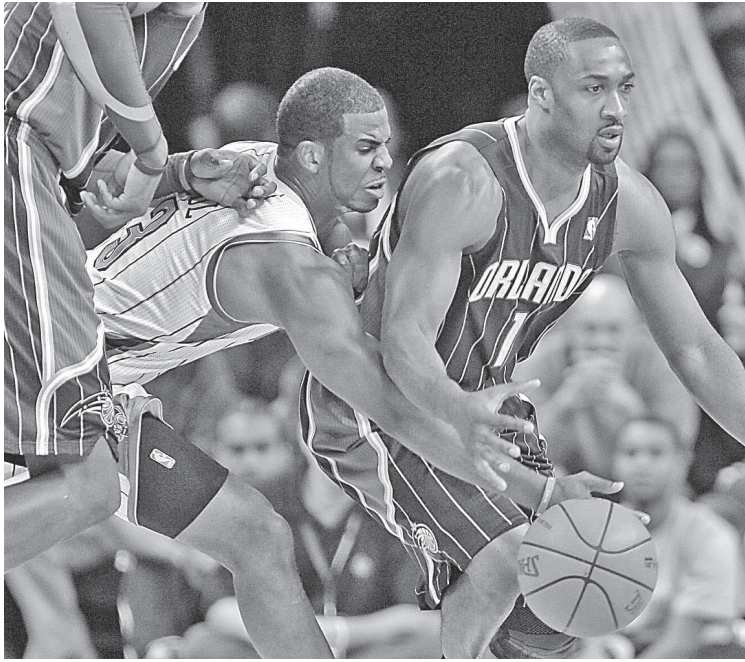
**Very reasonable price, exciting menu and  
NO SERVICE CHARGE**  
Dinner from 5:30 - 10:00  
Monday - Saturday

**FRESH CATCH & SEAFOOD**  
We are located close to the High-rise hotel's at walking distance.  
RESERVATION SUGGESTED  
**TEL: 586-7333**



## NBA Roundup

## Hornets win in overtime to snap Magic streak



New Orleans Hornets point guard Chris Paul, center, swipes the ball out of Orlando Magic point guard Gilbert Arenas' hands as Arenas drives to the basket in the first half of an NBA basketball game in New Orleans, Wednesday, Jan. 12, 2011.

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — The New Orleans Hornets held off Orlando 92-89 in overtime on Wednesday, snapping the Magic's nine-game NBA winning streak.

Marcus Thornton capped a 22-point performance with a crucial jumper and two free throws in the final minute of the extra period as the Hornets took the lead for good.

Emeka Okafor had 18 points and 14 rebounds for New Orleans.

Orlando's Dwight Howard had 29 points and 20 rebounds, but missed a pair of free throws that could have given his side a one-point lead with 11 seconds to go.

The Magic erased a seven-point deficit in the final minute of regulation to force overtime.

#### Jazz 131, Knicks 125

In Salt Lake City, seven Utah players reached double figures in a battle of 3-pointers against New York.

Deron Williams and reserve C.J. Miles scored 24 points apiece for the Jazz, who hit 10 of 22 long shots while New York made 14 of 29.

Reserve Shawne Williams was 7 of 8 from behind the arc and scored 25 points for the Knicks, who made it close after trailing by as many as 16. New York still hasn't won in Salt Lake City since 2005.

#### Spurs 91, Bucks 84

In Milwaukee, reserve Matt Bonner scored all 17 of his points in the second half to lift San Antonio over Milwaukee and to its fourth straight win.

Trailing by two, Bonner sparked an 11-2 run after hitting two 3-pointers and a floater that gave San Antonio a 79-72 lead with 8:32 left. When Milwaukee cut it to three late, Bonner answered with a 15-footer with 57 seconds to play that halted the Bucks' rally.

Manu Ginobili added 23 as the Spurs improved the NBA's best record to 33-6 despite a pace more fitting to the grinding Bucks, who came in as the worst shooting and lowest scoring team in the league.

John Salmons scored 17 to lead Milwaukee.

In Oakland, sluggish Los Angeles rallied late to beat Golden State for their sixth straight victory.

Kobe Bryant scored 17 of his 39 points in the final 5:49 and also assisted on Ron Artest's crucial 3-pointer with 1:55 to play.

Pau Gasol added 24 points and 11 rebounds for the Lakers, who looked uncharacteristically out of sync for much of the game before turning it on when it mattered for their 12th

consecutive win over the Warriors and sixth straight in Oakland.

Los Angeles' Lamar Odom did his part to fuel the comeback, scoring 10 straight points during a key fourth-quarter stretch on the way to 20 points and nine rebounds.

In Houston, Oklahoma City won the franchise's first game in Houston in 12 attempts.

Kevin Durant scored 30 points and Russell Westbrook added 23 points and 13 assists for the Thunder. The franchise won

in Houston for the first time since 2004-05 when it was still the Seattle SuperSonics.

Luis Scola scored 31 points, but none in the fourth quarter, for Houston. The Rockets again played without leading scorer Kevin Martin and backup center Brad Miller due to injury.

Houston scored a season-high 70 points in the paint, but went 5 for 18 from 3-point range.

In Los Angeles, the hosts provided a major upset by ending miami's 13-game road

winning streak.

In other NBA games it was Charlotte 96, Chicago 91; Indiana 102, Dallas 89; Atlanta 104, Toronto 101; Boston 119, Sacramento 95; Memphis 107, Detroit 99; San Antonio 91, Milwaukee 84; New Orleans 92, Orlando 89, OT; Oklahoma City 118, Houston 112; Phoenix 118, New Jersey 109, OT; Utah 131, New York 125; L.A. Lakers 115, Golden State 110; and L.A. Clippers 111, Miami 105. □



Join the Bucuti Beach Resort, Aruba's leading luxury boutique beach resort. As one of Bucuti's associates, you and your family will enjoy its many advantageous benefits such as:

- Competitive salaries
- Pension plan
- Health, disability and life insurance
- Daily transportation allowance
- Educational training
- Saving plans and Loan availability
- Complimentary shift meal

As a Caribbean leader in sustainable tourism, Bucuti Beach Resort is seeking individuals who value the natural resources of Aruba and are keen on protecting it through varied environmental programs. For all positions, knowledge in the Quality ISO 9001 and Environment ISO 14001 certifications are a plus. Qualified candidates should be flexible in the work hours and available to work evenings, weekends and holidays. They should also be able to work in a drug free environment.

The following positions are currently available at The Bucuti beach Resort:

#### MANAGEMENT POSITIONS

##### Front Office Manager

Minimum Requirements:

- Minimum 2 years experience in similar position with hotel or time-share operation
- Proven track record of effective control processes and training methods
- Organized and strong ability to prioritize and multi-task
- Computer and PMS knowledge recommended (Opera and Concierge Assistant a plus)
- English necessary, Spanish a plus

##### Executive Housekeeper

Minimum Requirements:

- Minimum 5 years experience in similar position with hotel or time-share operation
- Proven track record of effective control processes and training methods
- Expert in indoor / outdoor sanitation methods
- Organized and strong ability to prioritize and multi-task
- Computer and PMS knowledge recommended (Opera and Concierge Assistant a plus)

English necessary, Spanish a plus

#### MID-LEVEL POSITION

##### AM F&B Supervisor

Minimum Requirements

- Minimum 2 years in similar position with hotel or time-share operation
- Ability to train staff provide leadership support
- Knowledge of food & beverage preparations and wines recommended
- Ability to work with a POS (Squirrel a plus)
- English necessary, Spanish a plus

#### FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME POSITIONS

##### 1<sup>st</sup> Cook

Minimum Requirements

- Minimum 2 years experience in similar position with luxury hotel or restaurants
- Knowledge of all HACCP food safety procedures
- English necessary, Spanish a plus

##### Seamstress

Minimum Requirements

- Minimum 2 years experience in similar position
- English necessary, Spanish a plus

Interested applicants can get more specific information and download a complete application form on our website: [www.bucuti.com/en/contact/employment.php](http://www.bucuti.com/en/contact/employment.php) Email: [jobs@bucuti.com](mailto:jobs@bucuti.com) or call 583-1100 ext 136/138 for an appointment or fax your resume at 582-5272





**Caribbean Cinemas**

**A FAMILY THEATER WITH CHILDREN PRICES!**

586-0074

CARIBBEANCINEMAS.COM/ARUBA

ENJOY YOUR MOVIE WITH 

PALM BEACH PLAZA

**Megaplex 8**

**JANUARY 13-19**

WORLDWIDE RELEASE!



Seth Rogen Jay Chou

**THE GREEN HORNET 3D**

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

Mon - Thurs 4:10 / 6:45 / 9:15  
Fri 4:10 / 6:45 / 9:15 / 12:00  
Sat 1:35 / 4:10 / 6:45 / 9:15 / 12:00  
Sun & Hol 1:35 / 4:10 / 6:45 / 9:15

**PG-13**

NEW THIS WEEK!



Jeff Bridges Garrett Hedlund

**TRON LEGACY 3D**

DISNEY DIGITAL

Mon - Thurs 4:20 / 6:55 / 9:30  
Fri 4:20 / 6:55 / 9:30 / 12:05  
Sat 1:45 / 4:20 / 6:55 / 9:30 / 12:05  
Sun & Hol 1:45 / 4:20 / 6:55 / 9:30

**PG**




Matt Damon Cécile De France

**HEREAFTER**

Mon - Thurs 4:00 / 6:35 / 9:10  
Fri 4:00 / 6:35 / 9:10 / 11:40  
Sat 1:30 / 4:00 / 6:35 / 9:10 / 11:40  
Sun & Hol 1:30 / 4:00 / 6:35 / 9:10

**PG-13**



ON TWO SCREENS

Mandy Moore Zachary Levi

**Disney Tangled**

REGULAR VERSION WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

Mon - Thurs 4:15 / 6:30 / 8:45  
Fri 4:15 / 6:30 / 8:45 / 10:40  
Sat 2:00 / 4:15 / 6:30 / 8:45 / 10:40  
Sun & Hol 2:00 / 4:15 / 6:30 / 8:45

SPANISH VERSION

Mon - Fri 4:45  
Sat - Sun & Hol 2:30 / 4:45

**PG**

Jeff Bridges Matt Damon

**TRUE GRIT**

Mon - Thurs 4:25 / 6:50 / 9:15  
Fri 4:25 / 6:50 / 9:15 / 11:40  
Sat 2:00 / 4:25 / 6:50 / 9:15 / 11:40  
Sun & Hol 2:00 / 4:25 / 6:50 / 9:15

**PG-13**

Jack Black Emily Blunt

**GULLIVER'S TRAVELS**

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

Mon - Thurs 5:15 / 7:10 / 9:05  
Fri 5:15 / 7:10 / 9:05 / 11:00  
Sat 1:30 / 3:20 / 5:15 / 7:10 / 9:05 / 11:00  
Sun & Hol 1:30 / 3:20 / 5:15 / 7:10 / 9:05

**PG**

Ben Stiller Robert De Niro

**Little Fockers**

Mon - Thurs 5:30 / 7:35 / 9:40  
Fri 5:30 / 7:35 / 9:40 / 11:50  
Sat 1:30 / 3:30 / 5:30 / 7:35 / 9:40 / 11:50  
Sun & Hol 1:30 / 3:30 / 5:30 / 7:35 / 9:40

**PG-13**

Johnny Depp Angelina Jolie

**THE TOURIST**

Mon - Thurs 7:00 / 9:20  
Fri - Sat 7:00 / 9:20 / 11:40  
Sun & Hol 7:00 / 9:20

**PG-13**

STARTING NEXT WEEK JANUARY 20 - THE DILEMMA

## Chisora camp piles pressure on Wladimir Klitschko

LONDON (AP) — Dereck Chisora would cause the biggest upset in boxing history if he defeats Wladimir Klitschko in their heavyweight title bout on April 30, the London fighter's promoter claimed Thursday. Chisora is a massive underdog for his fight against the IBF and WBO champion in Mannheim, Germany, having won just 14 fights in his career compared to the experienced Klitschko's 55 victories.

"For a guy to win a heavyweight title after just 14 fights has to be the biggest upset of all time," said Frank Warren, Chisora's promoter.

"It would be a bigger upset than (Leon) Spinks beating (Muhammad) Ali because Spinks came in as Olympic champion. There are a lot of people out there who think this is a total mismatch, but they're wrong. He is going to give Klitschko a fight."

Chisora originally had been scheduled to fight the younger of the Klitschko brothers on Dec. 11, but the Ukrainian pulled out because of an abdominal injury. The British and Commonwealth champion was handed another shot at the two heavyweight belts when talks between Klitschko



**Zimbabwe-born professional boxer Dereck Chisora attends a news conference in London, Thursday, Jan. 13, 2011.**

*Associated Press*

and Britain's David Haye, holder of the WBA belt, broke down this month.

Chisora is contracted to fight Vitali Klitschko if he beats Wladimir, and also has his sights set on Haye.

"Winning the world title after 14 fights would be amazing. My goal is to unify all the titles," Chisora said.

Chisora is undefeated while Klitschko has a 55-3 record, with 49 knockouts. □

## 33 years later, Vuelta returns to Basque Country

ALICANTE, Spain (AP) — The Spanish Vuelta is returning to the Basque Country for the first time in 33 years to mark its 66th edition.

The Spanish race — one of cycling's three classics alongside the Tour de France and the Giro d'Italia — will cover 2,047 miles in 21 stages with two finishes in the Basque region, in Vitoria and Bilbao.

The Vuelta hasn't stopped in the northern coastal province since 1978 when a time trial in San Sebastian was canceled.

A night time trial opens the race on Aug. 20 in Benidorm before the traditional finish in the Spanish capital of Madrid on Sept. 11. Along the way, there will be a team time trial in Salamanca and six mountain-top finishes, including back-to-back special category climbs to finish at La Farrapona and then Alto de L'Angliru — a 15th-stage finish that could set the final leaderboard.

But sprinters will get one chance to change that with a 112-mile leg from Villa Romana La Olmeda to Haro in the 16th stage as the race winds along the north of the country toward its return to the Basque Country.

While the race is expected to favor climbers, the heat will also play a part as the race is moved up one week and the first six legs will take place in the southern part of the country where temperatures regularly exceed 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit) in August. "It's a very difficult Vuelta," defending champion Vincenzo Nibali of Italy said. □



# Laver: Nadal's 4 in row wouldn't be Grand Slam

HOWARD FENDRICH

AP Tennis Writer

Tennis great Rod Laver wants to make something perfectly clear: If Rafael Nadal wins this month's Australian Open for a fourth major title in a row, it would be "a great effort" — but not a Grand Slam.

That's because a true Grand Slam is winning the Australian Open, French Open, Wimbledon and the U.S. Open in a calendar year, not just consecutively.

Laver would know. He accomplished the feat twice, in 1962 and 1969; no man has done it since.

The buzz at the Australian Open, which begins on Monday, will be about Nadal, and his bid to become the first man in 42 years to win four straight Grand Slam tournaments. The Spaniard's championships at the French Open, Wimbledon and U.S. Open came in 2010, so if he wins in Australia, his "Rafa Slam" would span two seasons.

"He's got three under his belt and he's playing well. There's a good chance he could pull it off. But it's not a Grand Slam, certainly," Laver told The Associated Press in a telephone interview from his home in California. "People will say, 'He's going for a Grand Slam.' And

I say, 'No, he's not doing that.' That wasn't the way this whole thing was set up. It starts in January and ends in September; starts with the Australian Open and ends with the U.S. Open."

"Still," Laver continued, "what he's trying to do is a great effort. It's not a Grand Slam, but it's a great effort."

The 72-year-old Australian is surprised no one has swept tennis' top four tournaments since his day. Roger Federer came close — winning three in a row over two seasons on two separate occasions, and winning three in a year (Australian, Wimbledon, U.S.) in 2004, 2006 and 2007.

Jimmy Connors won three of the four in 1974; Mats Wilander did the same in 1988.

"It's uncanny that no one has put it all together," Laver said. "I thought that possibly someone like Boris Becker would have been able to do it. Or maybe Bjorn Borg. Or Pete Sampras. There were quite a few players that dominated their era but never were able to put it together and make a total Grand Slam of it."

And what about Federer, owner of a career-record 16 major titles?

"Federer was the latest one that I thought would definitely have a

shot at it. He kept winning three in a year, except the French Open," Laver said, "because Nadal owns the French."

Asked why he thinks it hasn't happened since the 1960s, Laver pointed to the importance of being injury- and illness-free and the current depth of men's tennis.

Part of what makes his achievement special is that Nadal now has benefited from the downtime during the offseason. He also doesn't have to deal with the mounting attention and focus that would come with pursuing a real Grand Slam.

"The pressure of winning a Grand Slam — there's supposed to be a start and an end to it," Laver said.

"There's no real start or end to it if you just keep going from one year to the next. You can say, 'Well, I'll start at Wimbledon,' or 'I'll start at the U.S. Open and win all four in a row.'"

Make no mistake: Laver is a big fan of Nadal's and his style of play.

"The effort he puts in all the time. He never gives up on shots. He keeps improving his game," Laver said.

"You just marvel at how he can put so much spin on the ball and not make errors," Laver added. "You



In this Dec. 1, 2008, file photo, tennis great Rod Laver poses with his racket in Carlsbad, Calif. Rafael Nadal has won the last three major tennis tournaments, but at least one man wants to make clear the Spaniard is not bidding to complete a Grand Slam at the Australian Open. A Grand Slam, Laver explains, is winning all four majors in a calendar year. Laver would know. He did it twice.

Associated Press

would think he'd be making errors somewhere along the line. He turns that racket over and puts so much spin on the ball — but he's so accurate, with so much depth. It's great to watch." □



Kim Clijsters of Belgium celebrates winning her semifinals match against Alisa Kleybanova of Russia during the Sydney International tennis tournament in Sydney, Australia, Thursday, Jan. 13, 2011.

Associated Press

SYDNEY (AP) — U.S. Open champion Kim Clijsters came from a break down in the deciding set to beat Alisa Kleybanova of Russia 4-6, 6-3, 7-6 (1) on Thursday and advance to the Sydney International final.

Clijsters will play Li Na of China, who beat Bojana

Jovanovski 7-6 (5), 6-3.

"If she plays like that, I think she's definitely a contender to beat a lot of top players," Clijsters said of Kleybanova's chances at the Australian Open. "It was last year when she played Justine (Henin) where she almost beat her in the Australian Open.

## Clijsters, Li reach Sydney final

That's a perfect example of how well she can play. So I think she is definitely a player who's a very tough outsider and can make it very tough for a lot of the players."

In the men's tournament, Gilles Simon advanced to the semifinals by beating Alexandr Dolgoplov of Ukraine 6-4, 6-3. Simon's victory set up a meeting with third-seeded Ernests Gulbis of Latvia, who beat Sergiy Stakhovsky of Ukraine 6-4, 6-4.

In the other semifinal match, Florian Mayer of Germany will play Viktor Troicki of Serbia. Mayer beat Potito Starace of Italy 6-4, 6-1, and Troicki defeated Richard Gasquet of France 6-4, 6-4.

Simon and Dolgoplov both earned their places in the quarterfinals after completing rain-delayed

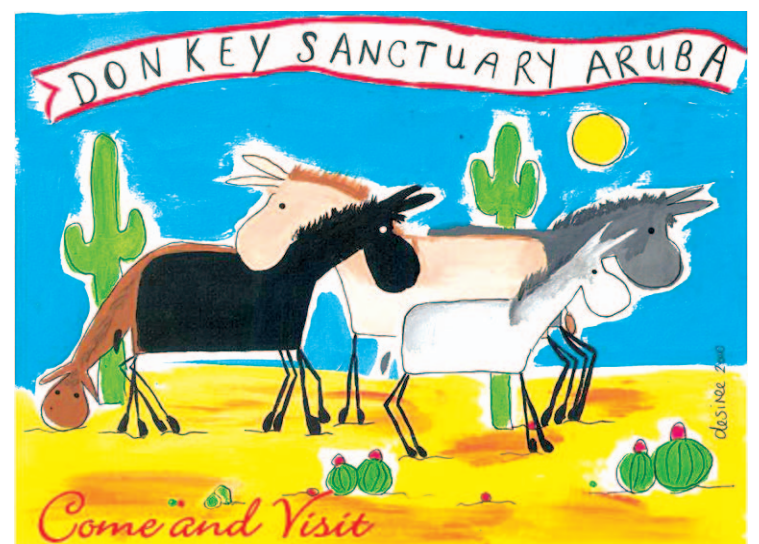
first round matches Wednesday morning, then returning to the court for second round matches in the afternoon. The tough schedule fully tested Simon's gradual recovery from injuries that blighted his 2010.

After the win, Simon said he feels he is back to the form that saw him reach No. 6 in the world rankings. "The thing is in tennis

it's always a matter of confidence," Simon said. "You have to win some good matches and to beat the top guys.

"That's why I'm working hard to come back as soon as possible.

I'm (ranked 41) now. I hope to reach top 30 or top 20 really as soon as possible because I know it will be better with the draws and everything." □





# Softball stars not playing for powerhouse U.S. team

By TOM WITHERS

AP Sports Writer

CLEVELAND — Jessica Mendoza traveled the world playing tournaments and in two Olympics for the powerful U.S. softball team. That decade-long journey, for now, is over.

Mendoza, a two-time Olympic medalist, and seven of her teammates from the 2008 Beijing Games, will not play for Team USA this year, opting to play professionally instead in hopes of growing a sport dropped from the Olympic program.

“I never imagined this would be how I would leave USA Softball,” Mendoza said Wednesday in a phone interview from her home in California. “I hope it’s not the end.”

Mendoza said she and the others informed Amateur Softball Association of America this month that they were declining invitations to attend the U.S. team’s June camp so they can play exclusively in the four-team National Pro Fastpitch league. Mendoza, who is also president of the Women’s Sports Foundation, said it became too difficult for players to fulfill the obligation of playing for the U.S. team and in the NPF, whose schedules intersect. Moreover, because the U.S. Olympic Committee has dropped funding — over \$1 million in an Olympic year — for softball, there was no financial reward for playing for their country.

“This has been a long time coming,” said Mendoza, adding that she and her teammates spent months discussing their options. “In the end, we all wanted to do the best thing for the sport of softball. Everyone agreed that a change really needed to be made.” Fellow Olympians Natasha Watley, Cat Osterman, Monica Abbott, Caitlin Lowe, Lauren Lappin, Andrea Duran and Vicky Galindo also will not play for the U.S. during the upcoming 2011 season. That doesn’t



**This July 20, 2009, file photo shows United States’ Jennie Finch, left, holding her individual plaque and her son, Ace, following the World Cup of Softball championship game in Oklahoma City. Finch tells People Magazine she’s expecting her second child with husband Casey Daigle.**

*Associated Press*

mean some of them may not return in the future.

Ron Radigonda, executive director of ASA/USA Softball, said the U.S. program went through a similar turnover in 2001 when several players left to play professionally. He’s disappointed Team USA is losing its nucleus, but that doesn’t change his commitment to fielding and funding teams for international competition. “This was their decision and we support it,” Radigonda said. “These women are very near and dear to us. But we look at this as an opportunity to rebuild the program. ... We have married players who need to make a living. We can’t fault anybody for that.” Olympic softball sustained a devastating hit when it was voted off the program for the London Games in 2012. Last year, a bid to get it back in 2016 was rejected when the IOC voted in golf and rugby for the Rio Olympics. Softball was on the program from 1996-2008, with the U.S. team winning three gold medals and a silver.

While the sport’s popularity has grown worldwide, helped by the American team’s success and the appeal of cross-over star pitcher Jennie Finch, it’s still lacking support in Europe, where the IOC’s membership has long associated it with baseball.

Mendoza’s hope is that a strong pro league with more teams and featuring some of the game’s biggest names can attract a wider audience, sponsors and, perhaps most importantly, television revenues. Mendoza said part of her choice to focus on playing professionally stemmed from talks with tennis legend Billie Jean King, whose decision in the 1970s to leave the U.S. tour and start the Virginia Slims circuit prompted the growth of women’s tennis here and abroad.

Mendoza said King encouraged her to take softball on a similar, unknown path.

“No one knows what will happen,” Mendoza said. “But what we all want is what’s best for softball, and for its future.” □



**Volkswagen’s Nasser Al-Attiyah, from Qatar, and co-driver Timo Gottschalk, from Germany, compete in the 11th stage of the 2011 Argentina-Chile Dakar Rally between Chilecito and San Juan, Argentina, Thursday Jan. 13, 2011.**

*Associated Press*

## Al-Attiyah nears victory; Sainz breaks suspension

SAN JUAN, Argentina (AP) — Nasser Al-Attiyah of Qatar closed in on his first Dakar Rally title when he won the 11th stage and sole rival Carlos Sainz broke his right front suspension and lost more than an hour on Thursday.

Al-Attiyah, runner-up to Sainz last year, started with a 12-minute lead on the Spaniard and took few risks on the split stage from Chilecito to San Juan.

However, Sainz, despite conceding the rally to his Volkswagen teammate Al-Attiyah on Wednesday, was determined to race hard to the end and led for the first 400 kilometers through canyons at the foot of the Andes until he hit a hole and tore off his right front wheel. Teammate Mark Miller stopped to help Sainz but the defending champion lost major time.

What was supposed to be the longest stage of the rally — 387 miles — was shortened by 90 kilometers for safety reasons after rain scoured new gorges near San Juan. Al-Attiyah won his fourth stage this year, finishing 1 minute, 13 seconds ahead of three-time winner Stephane Peterhansel of France and 4:52 up on 2009 champ Giniel de Villiers of South Africa, who took over second place from Sainz.

Sainz finished 14th, 1:14:50 behind.

Overall, Al-Attiyah led de Villiers by 51:49, and Sainz was third, 1:27.27 back and in a struggle to hold off Peterhansel to make the finish podium on Saturday.

Peterhansel was at least ready to hand the trophy to Al-Attiyah. “Carlos’ problems will allow Nasser to have a much more comfortable last two days,” Peterhansel said. “Carlos already lost the Dakar two days from the finish two years ago. We know that it is always complicated to win the Dakar and he’s seen just how much this time.”

In motorbikes, Mark Coma of Spain was set to complete his third victory, following wins in 2006 and 2009.

He stayed on the tail of the only other contender, defending champ Cyril Despres of France, who took advantage of a navigation error by Francisco Lopez of Chile for his third stage win this year.

Despres regained 2:12 on Coma in the stage, but Coma still led Despres by 15:59 overall and talked like a man who sensed victory going into a difficult stage on Friday and a relatively easy one to wrap up on Saturday.

“Tomorrow evening we’ll obviously be closer to the finish, but I have to make sure I get through the day OK,” Coma said. “A calm approach is best. ... I repeat: Tomorrow is another long day. We’ll see what happens afterward.”

In Friday’s penultimate stage to Cordoba, the racers must handle sand for the first 100 kilometers of the 555-kilometer special. □



# IBM computer taking on 'Jeopardy!' champs for \$1M

YORKTOWN HEIGHTS, N.Y. — It's the size of 10 refrigerators, and it swallows encyclopedias whole, but an IBM computer was lacking one thing it needed to battle the greatest champions from the "Jeopardy!" quiz show. It couldn't hit a buzzer.

But that's been fixed, and on Thursday the hardware and software system named Watson was to play a practice round against Ken Jennings, who won a record 74 consecutive "Jeopardy!" games in 2004-05, and Brad Rutter, who won a record of nearly \$3.3 million in prize money.

"'Jeopardy!' felt that in order for the game to be as fair as possible, just as a human has to physically hit a buzzer, the system also would have to do that," IBM spokeswoman Jennifer McTighe said. "Now Watson has its own real buzzer."

The practice round was to be played on a stage at an IBM research center in Yorktown Heights, 38 miles north of Manhattan and across the country from the game show's home in Culver City, Calif. A real contest among the three, to be televised Feb. 14-16, also will be played at IBM, but the date hasn't been made public. The winner of the televised match will be awarded \$1 million. Second place gets \$300,000, third place \$200,000. IBM, which has headquarters in Armonk, said it would give its winnings to charity while Jennings and Rutter would give away half theirs.

The practice round is the first public demonstration of the computer system, IBM said. But Watson, which is named for IBM founder Thomas J. Watson, has been engaging in secretive practice rounds with other past "Jeopardy!"

contestants, McTighe said. The company won't say how Watson did in those sparring matches.

The system, which is powered by 10 racks of IBM servers running the Linux operating system and has 15 terabytes of random-access memory, or RAM, has been in the works for four years. It has digested encyclopedias, dictionaries, books, news, movie scripts and more, IBM says. It has access to the equivalent of 200 million pages of content. It is not connected to the Internet, so it does not do Web searches. The company says Watson rivals a human's ability to answer questions posed in natural language rather than computer code with speed, accuracy and confidence. Unlike earlier computers, it can deal with "Jeopardy's!" subtleties of language, including puns and riddles. IBM scientist David Ferrucci,

a leader of the Watson team, said last month that using "Jeopardy!" to develop the computer system "is going to drive the technology in the right directions."

"It asks all kinds of things," he said. "It has the confidence aspect don't answer if you don't think you're right. You also have to do it really quickly." Watson is reminiscent of IBM's famous Deep Blue computer, which defeated chess champion Garry Kasparov in 1997. But while chess is well-defined and mathematical, "Jeopardy!" presents a more open-ended challenge.

Winning at "Jeopardy!" is not the main prize, IBM says. The technology could mean speedier diagnosing of medical conditions and researching of legal case law, for example.

"This could be something important," said "Jeopardy!"



executive producer Harry Friedman, "and we want to be a part of it."

Each contestant will have a podium, just as on normal "Jeopardy!" shows hosted by Alex Trebek. But given the size of the servers, Watson will be represented by an IBM Smart Planet icon on an LCD screen that fluctuates to reflect its processes.

And just as humans have been doing for 47 years on the game show, Watson has learned to come up with an answer in the form of a question. □

## PSP2 to be revealed this month?



A new version of the PlayStation Portable a dedicated PlayStation Portable, mind you, not the all-but-confirmed PlayStation Phone is long overdue. The latest rumors, however, point toward Sony unveiling a next-generation PSP as early as this month.

Gaming sites VG247 and MCV both claim that the so-called PSP2 will be unveiled at a Sony "business overview and strategy meeting" in Tokyo on January 27, just two weeks away.

The new PSP will go on sale "later this year," VG247

reports, adding that early versions of the console have been circulating around gaming development houses for about a year.

Sony has yet to confirm the PSP2, but execs for the electronics giant have been hinting about the handheld for months now.

Only a few weeks ago, Sony gaming boss Kazuo Hirai told the New York Times that a new version of the PSP not that there necessarily is one, of course! might boast touchscreen controls, similar to iOS and Android handsets. (Let's just hope Sony doesn't

throw out analog controls with the bathwater.)

But while Sony may take some cues from smartphones with its new PSP, the PlayStation Portable platform will continue to focus more on deeper, more "immersive" games, rather than casual mobile titles like the ubiquitous Angry Birds, Hirai promised in the December interview. There's also been talk of Sony execs supposedly bragging to game makers that the PSP2 "is as powerful as the PlayStation 3."

The latest chatter comes as rumors continue to mount over the widely leaked, Android-powered PlayStation Phone, which has been spied, videoed, poked, prodded, and even dismantled in recent days and weeks, although neither Sony Ericsson nor Sony proper has spilled the beans yet.

It's been more than a year since we saw a new PlayStation Portable arrive in stores the PSP Go, a slimmed-down version of the still-available PSP 3000 with slide-out gaming controls and flash memory instead of a UMD disc drive. □

## U.S. may challenge Google's ITA deal: sources

WASHINGTON — U.S. regulators are putting together a possible antitrust challenge to Google Inc.'s planned \$700 million acquisition of airline ticketing software company ITA Software, sources knowledgeable about the deal said on Thursday.

The proposed deal has sparked worries in the tech world that travel websites such as Orbitz Worldwide Inc, Kayak and TripAdvisor could be deprived of ITA's critical software. Officials in the Justice Department's antitrust division have asked for data and documents about the merger and said they wanted the information fast, the sources said.

"DOJ calls up and says 'We're under time pressure,'" said one source.

"People (at the Justice Department) had told us that they had canceled Christmas plans," a second person said.

"My own indication is that I don't see any signs that the parties are going to resolve this amicably and the likelihood as we sit today is that it will go to court," the first source said. "But that could change."

Bloomberg reported that Google had invoked a provision of federal law that forces the government to decide within 30 days whether to challenge the deal.

Google declined to say whether it had started the clock ticking on the merger review.

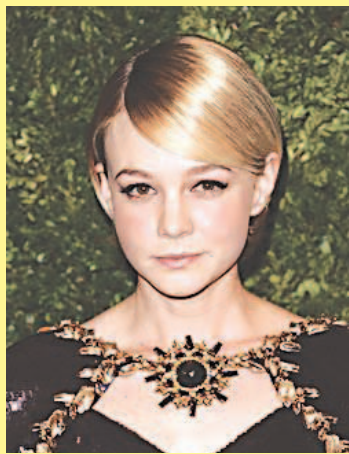
"While we continue to cooperate with the Justice Department's review, we are ultimately confident that this acquisition will increase competition," added Google spokesman Adam Kovacevich.

Google, the world's No. 1 Internet search engine, announced plans to acquire ITA Software for \$700 million in cash in July.

A Justice Department spokeswoman could not immediately be reached for comment. "Obviously they're thinking about bringing a lawsuit," said Bob Doyle of the law firm Doyle, Barlow and Mazard PLLC. □



## Carey Mulligan to return to a New York stage



NEW YORK — Carey Mulligan is returning to the New York stage this spring and she'll be losing her mind. The elfin actress who shot to fame with the film "An Education" will star in an adaptation of Ingmar Bergman's 1961 movie, "Through a Glass Darkly." The adaptation will premiere off-Broadway starting May 13.

Mulligan, 25, will play an intense young woman harrowed by psychiatric illness who spirals out of control while on holiday off the coast of Sweden with her husband, novelist father and brother.

"It's an incredible descent into insanity. It's horribly scary and I have no idea what I'm going to do," she says by phone from Los Angeles.

"Everyone wants to play someone with a problem," she says, laughing.

Mulligan made her Broadway debut in 2008 in "The Seagull" opposite Peter Sarsgaard and Kristin Scott Thomas when the play moved from London to New York. She says that was a dream come true and left her itching for more stage work.

"I'm more consumed by theater than I am by film," she says. "I never set out really to be a film actress. I love it and I'm incredibly lucky, but I find it easier to

throw myself into a play than film. I'm always much more self-aware and self-conscious when I'm doing film because cameras really freak me out."

The new work the only film Bergman gave permission to be adapted for the stage will be directed by David Leveaux and produced by the Atlantic Theater Company.

It will be staged at the New York Theater Workshop in the East Village and will run from May 13 to July 3. The adaptation made its world premiere at the Almeida Theatre in London last summer. Mulligan appeared in London in "Forty Winks" by Kevin Elyot at the Royal Court Theatre in 2004 and in a production of Moliere's "The Hypochondriac" in 2005. She won the role of Kitty Bennet in "Pride & Prejudice," the 2005 film adaptation of the Jane Austen novel. She is perhaps best known for "An Education," for which she was Oscar-nominated as the daring London schoolgirl who gets mixed up with an older man.

Though her film career is red-hot, the allure of the stage remained for Mulligan. She recalls recently watching her friend Zoe Kazan her co-star in "The Seagull" in the off-Broadway production of "Angels in America."

"I walked away gutted that I wasn't in a play," Mulligan says. "I got to the point where I missed theater so much I'd go to plays and be distracted by how jealous I was."

The British-born actress now considers herself a New Yorker, having moved to the city around Christmas. "It's thrilling. All I literally as a child wanted to do was be in a Broadway play and live in New York. I'm kind of on cloud nine." □

## Tinie Tempah leads BRIT music award nominations



LONDON — British rapper Tinie Tempah led the field on Thursday at the BRIT awards with four nominations, just ahead of singer-songwriter Plan B, folk rock act Mumford & Sons and London's The XX, who each had three nods.

In a turnaround from 2010's female-dominated nominations, male acts were in the ascendancy for 2011 as the buildup began to the biggest night of the year for British pop music.

The winners are announced at the O2 Arena in London on February 15 at a ceremony where Tempah will perform alongside Rihanna, Take That and Plan B.

Joining the relatively fresh-faced front-runners is Robert Plant, former Led Zeppelin lead singer who has forged a successful solo career. At age 62, Plant grabbed his first BRIT nomination in the category of best British male solo artist.

Those with two nominations apiece are Arcade Fire, Kings of Leon, Ellie Goulding, Cheryl Cole, Katy Perry, Cee Lo Green, Take That, Rumer and Eminem.

Tempah, 22, is nominated for British male solo artist, British breakthrough act, British single for "Pass Out" and the coveted Mastercard British album of the year with "Disc-Overy."

In the latter category, Tempah is up against Mumford & Sons ("Sigh No More"), Plan B ("The Defamation of Strickland Banks"), Take That ("Progress") and The XX ("XX").

Jessie J has already been announced as the winner of the Critics' Choice award identifying up-and-coming talent, and comedian James Corden was named on Thursday as the host of this year's ceremony.

Industry insiders said the inclusion of artists on the BRITs Voting Academy was one reason behind the prominence this year of relatively new artists over more established acts.

Other changes in 2011 include a move to the O2 Arena, BRIT statues styled by Vivienne Westwood and a re-formatted show that climaxes with the announcement of the winner of the British Album of the Year.

Following is the full list of nominations:

British Male Solo Artist: Mark Ronson; Paul Weller; Plan B; Robert Plant; Tinie Tempah

British Female Solo Artist: Cheryl Cole; Ellie Goulding; Laura Marling; Paloma Faith; Rumer

British Breakthrough Act (top five selected by Academy, winner chosen by BBC Radio 1 listeners): Ellie Goulding;

Mumford & Sons; Rumer; Tinie Tempah; The XX

British Group: Biffy Clyro; Gorillaz; Mumford & Sons; Take That; The XX

British Single (voted for by listeners of Capital FM and users of iTunes): Alexandra Burke ft Pitbull/All Night Long; Cheryl Cole/Parachute; Florence & The Machine/You've Got The Love; Matt Cardle/When We Collide; Olly Murs/Please Don't Let Me Go; Plan B/She Said; Scouting For Girls/This Ain't A Love Song; Taio Cruz/Dynamite; Tinie Tempah/Pass Out; The Wanted/All Time Low

MasterCard British Album of the Year: Mumford & Sons/Sigh No More; Plan B/The Defamation of Strickland Banks; Take That/Progress; Tinie Tempah/Disc-Overy; The XX/XX

International Male Solo Artist: Bruce Springsteen; Cee Lo Green; David Guetta; Eminem; Kanye West

International Female Solo Artist: Alicia Keys; Katy Perry; Kylie Minogue; Rihanna; Robyn

International Breakthrough Act (top five selected by Academy, winner chosen by MTV viewers): Bruno Mars; Glee Cast; Justin Bieber; The National; The Temper Trap

International Group: Arcade Fire; Black Eyed Peas; Kings of Leon; The Script; Vampire Weekend

International Album: Arcade Fire/The Suburbs; Cee Lo Green/The Lady Killer; Eminem/Recovery; Katy Perry/Teenage Dream; Kings of Leon/Come Around Sundown

Critics' Choice (in association with War Child): Jessie J (winner)

British Producer: Ethan Johns; John Leckie; Markus Dravs; Mike Pela; Stuart Price. □





# Over 1 million Americans seen losing homes in 2011

NEW YORK – The bleakest year in the foreclosure crisis has only just begun.

Lenders are poised to take back more homes this year than any other since the U.S. housing meltdown began in 2006. About 5 million borrowers are at least two months behind on their mortgages and industry experts say more people will miss payments because of job losses and also loans that exceed the value of the homes they are living in.

“2011 is going to be the peak,” said Rick Sharga, a senior vice president at foreclosure

tracker RealtyTrac Inc. The firm predicts 1.2 million homes will be repossessed this year.

The blistering pace of foreclosures this year will top 2010, when a record 1 million homes were lost, RealtyTrac said Thursday.

One in every 45 U.S. households received a foreclosure filing last year, a record 2.9 million of them. That’s up 1.67 percent from 2009.

On Thursday, Freddie Mac reported that fixed mortgage rates dipped this week for

the second straight time, extending a sliver of hope for some home owners. .

The average rate on the 30-year mortgage dropped to 4.71 percent from 4.77 percent the previous week. The rate on the 15-year loan, a popular refinance choice, slipped to 4.08 percent from 4.13 percent.

But both are a half-point higher than the lows they reached in November. The 30-year loan rate hit a 40-year low of 4.17 percent and the 15-year mortgage rate fell to 3.57 percent, the lowest level



on records starting in 1991.

The dip has led more borrowers to apply for a refinance, but would-be buyers remain hesitant, according to Wednesday’s mortgage indexes from the Mortgage Bankers Association. It will take more than low mortgage rates to jumpstart a housing market plagued by high unemployment, falling prices, tighter credit standards.

The glut of foreclosures has compounded the problem and while the pace moderated in the final months of 2010, that isn’t expected to last.

Foreclosures are expected to remain elevated throughout the year, pushing home prices down another 5 percent nationally before finally bottoming out.

The number of homes that received at least one foreclosure-related filing in December was the lowest monthly total in 30 months. Total notices fell 1.8 percent from November and 26.3 percent from December 2009, RealtyTrac said.

Banks temporarily halted actions against borrowers severely behind on their payments after allegations of improper eviction surfaced in September.

However, most banks have since resumed foreclosures and the first quarter will likely bear that out, Sharga said.

The pain likely will be the most acute in states that have

already suffered the worst. For the most part, it will be states that saw the biggest housing booms: Nevada, Arizona, Florida and California. They will be joined by states hit hardest by the economic downturn, including Michigan and Illinois.

And on Wednesday, Illinois lawmakers approved a 66 percent income-tax increase in a desperate bid to end the state’s crippling budget crisis. More than half of the country’s foreclosure activity came out of five states in 2010: California, Florida, Arizona, Illinois and Michigan. Together, these states recorded almost 1.5 million households receiving a filing, despite year-over-year decreases in California, Florida and Arizona.

Nevada posted the highest foreclosure rate in 2010 for the fourth straight year, despite a 5 percent decline in activity from the year before. One in every 11 households received a foreclosure filing last year in the state. In December, foreclosure activity increased 18 percent from November with a 71 percent spike in bank repossessions.

Arizona and California also showed sharp December increases in the number of homes that banks reclaimed, at 52 percent and 47 percent, respectively. Arizona, along with Florida, finished the year at No. 2 and No. 3 for the highest foreclosure rates. □

# Natural gas prices drop as supplies remain high

Natural gas prices retreated Thursday after the government said supplies remain well above average, even as snow and bone-chilling cold blew across parts of the nation.

Although more Americans turned up the heat last week, natural gas supplies remained 2.4 percent above year-ago levels. Natural gas for March delivery fell 10.7 cents to settle at \$4.419 per 1,000 cubic feet in on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Natural gas supplies in underground storage in the lower 48 states shrank by 138 billion cubic feet to 2.959 trillion cubic feet for the week ended Jan. 7, the Energy Department reported. The total was 5.8 percent more than the five-year average.

Natural gas is used in about 20 percent of the nation’s power plants to produce electricity, according to the Edison Electric Institute. EEI said electricity demand rose nearly 1 percent nationwide last week but was 10.8 percent below the same time last year.

The plentiful supplies combined with ongoing weak demand could mean another year for low natural gas prices.

The supply “looks set to outpace demand for a fourth straight year,” energy analyst Stephen Schork wrote in The Schork report.

Yet, BNP Paribas Commodity Futures analyst Tom Bentz said the gas market has been depressed for so long that an uptick in demand over the winter could send prices

toward \$5 per 1,000 cubic feet before spring. Natural gas hasn’t been at that level since last June. The Labor Department said a spike in oil and food costs pushed wholesale prices up last month by the biggest amount in nearly a year, a trend that could threaten the still-fragile global economic recovery. About three-fourths of the increase was due to higher energy costs. Energy prices rose 3.7 percent. Home heating oil prices jumped 12.3 percent and gasoline prices rose 6.4 percent. Oil prices fell Thursday after briefly rising above \$92 a barrel. Investors took profits following a Labor Department report that showed a surprising jump in applications for unemployment benefits last week. Benchmark oil for February delivery lost 46 cents to settle at \$91.40 a barrel on the Nymex. Meanwhile, gasoline pump prices continuing to climb, reaching a national average of nearly \$3.10 for a gallon of regular gasoline, according to AAA, Wright Express and the Oil Price Information Service. That’s about 12 cents more than a month ago and around 34 cents more than a year ago.

In other Nymex contracts for February delivery, heating oil fell 0.95 to settle at \$2.6091 a gallon, and gasoline futures gave up 1.72 cents to settle at \$2.4459 per gallon. In London, Brent crude fell 28 cents to settle at \$97.29 a barrel on the ICE Futures exchange. □





# Pill-Splitting Potentially Perilous, Study Suggests

The common practice of pill-splitting done by patients and health professionals alike to save money or make medications easier to swallow is inaccurate and potentially dangerous, a new study suggests.

Belgian researchers found that nearly one-third of split pill fragments deviated from recommended dosages by 15 percent or more. In the study, five volunteers divided eight tablets of various sizes using three tools: a kitchen knife, scissors and a pill-splitting device.

Another 14 percent of split tablets differed from recommended dosages by 25 percent or more, according to the study. And even the most precise method (the splitting device) caused a 15 percent to 25 percent error margin in 13 percent of cases. Each pill fragment was weighed after splitting to determine how much they deviated from theoretical weight.

"In most of the cases and especially in nursing homes, medications are taken as chronic therapies. Very often,

it doesn't matter clinically if the patient takes a little more drug one day and a little less the next," said study author Charlotte Verrue, an assistant academic staff member at Ghent University in Belgium. "However," she added, "it might have consequences when the deviations are bigger [25 percent and more] and when a small deviation in dosage can have an important difference in effect. Just to be safe, we advise to be careful with this splitting practice. It is not as innocent as it might seem."

Verrue said she decided to do the study after being asked by nurses in nursing homes what would be the best method for splitting tablets in daily practice, regardless of the type or size of pill or whether it had score lines.

Of the five volunteers, only one had tablet-splitting experience, Verrue said, which she believes replicates nursing home conditions where pill-splitting is not always performed by professional nurses.

The participants split eight

tablets of different shapes and sizes, prescribed for conditions such as Parkinson's disease, congestive heart failure and arthritis, into 3,600 separate quarters or halves. Three tablets were unscored, three had one score line and the rest had two.

"The splitting should indeed be performed by nurses, but it is not always the case in daily practice" because of staff shortages, Verrue said. "Moreover, I don't think that nurses have a specific training in tablet splitting."

Nancy Mason, a clinical associate professor of pharmacy at the University of Michigan, said she had never heard of research similar to this. "I thought it was a unique study and when you think about it, not surprising at all," said Mason, also director of the university's Experiential Training Program in pharmacy. "It's very good information to know. As a pharmacist, I typically don't try to tell someone to split a pill. Even when it's scored, [the practice] still has issues." Verrue and Mason said even



minute dosage deviations of certain medications can cause critical problems, including drugs for irregular heartbeat, blood clots and seizures. Verrue called on pharmaceutical companies to produce more dose options and liquid alternatives so pill-splitting becomes increasingly unnecessary. But she acknowledged that drug makers may resist such a move because it could hurt

profits. "I think that the smaller dosages are just not interesting enough from an economical perspective," Verrue said. "Providing liquid forms would be easier, I think, than providing a broader range of tablets."

The study, reported in the January issue of the Journal of Advanced Nursing, did not receive funding from any pharmaceutical companies. □

## FDA orders lowering pain reliever in Vicodin

market contain doses of up to 700 milligrams.

Acetaminophen is a ubiquitous pain reliever found in Tylenol, Nyquil and thousands of other medicines used to treat headaches, fever and sore throats. The ingredient is also used at larger doses in prescription combination drugs that mix it with narcotic drugs like oxycodone.

Those products are not dangerous by themselves but can cause toxic overdoses when patients combine them with a second acetaminophen-containing drug like Tylenol. FDA officials said the labeling on prescription drugs often does not make it clear that they contain acetaminophen,

instead using abbreviations for the ingredient like 'APAP.' "One of the real challenges we have is that patients taking these products don't know they're taking acetaminophen at all," said FDA deputy director for new drugs, Dr. Sandra Kweder, in a telephone briefing with reporters "They don't realize that they are overdosing."

The FDA said it is working with pharmacies and other medical groups to develop standard labeling for acetaminophen, though that is not part of Thursday's action. Agency officials said the drugs will still be effective at lower doses.

"The amount of

acetaminophen in these products has gradually crept up over the years," Kweder said. "If you look at these products 20 to 30 years ago, many did not contain high doses of acetaminophen."

The restrictions announced Thursday will not affect over-the-counter products like Tylenol and Theraflu. The FDA said it is still considering limits on those products, which involves a more complicated rule-making process than prescription products. For now, over-the-counter products will actually be permitted to contain higher doses of the drug up to 500 milligrams per pill or capsule. □



WASHINGTON — Federal health regulators are limiting a key ingredient found in Vicodin, Percocet and other prescription painkillers that have been linked to thousands of cases of liver damage each

year. The Food and Drug Administration said Thursday it will cap the amount of acetaminophen in the drugs at 325 milligrams per capsule. Current products on the



# Classified

**Bon Dia Aruba Weststraat 22 - Tel:5827800 - Fax:5827044**

## FOR SALE PARADISE BEACH VILLAS

Weeks 1,2,3,4,5  
\$7000 per week  
Call  
Room 324 week 1  
Room 107 week2  
Room 222 week 3  
E-mail:  
[jpenn34769@aol.com](mailto:jpenn34769@aol.com)  
After Jan 22  
call 920-7882750 101047

## FOR RENT Paradise Beach Villas

Wk 6 & 7 \$850 p/w  
Town house  
2 bdrm, 2 bath #217  
wk 7 \$500  
athached Studio #317  
Wk 8 \$500 Studio #317  
**Tropicana**  
Wk 8 & 9 \$600 p/w  
1 bdrm grand floor poolside  
#1537G  
297-745-5246  
e-mail:  
[iceprincess3754@yahoo.com](mailto:iceprincess3754@yahoo.com) 191339

## FOR SALE CASA DEL MAR

Week 3  
Room 1521  
2 bdrm, 2 baths  
  
Tel. 582-7000  
Room 1516  
[cforget@verizon.net](mailto:cforget@verizon.net) 191344

## FOR RENT

Marriott's Ocean Club  
Full kitchen, 1 br,  
sleeps 4  
January 7-14, 2012  
January 14-21, 2012  
Marriott's Surf Club,  
OCEANFRONT, full  
kitchen, 2 br/2ba,  
sleeps 8  
January 21-28, 2012  
E-mail: [spaldingr@att.net](mailto:spaldingr@att.net) 100496

## FOR SALE

**Aruba Phoenix**  
New Phase BLDG "A"  
5th Floor  
1 Bdrm 2 bath  
WEEK 2  
37 weeks plus 40 more  
10 Accelerated weeks  
\$17,900 U.S.  
743-0089 or  
[sfeto1000@snet.net](mailto:sfeto1000@snet.net) 101133

## FOR SALE BY OWNER

Divi Phoenix 2 br - 2 bath top  
floor villa ocean front high  
balcony, acceleration and  
exchange permied , mid jan  
sleeps 6 \$11.000  
(equity value 24.000) also,  
Phoenix wk 3 stud 6200, and  
Divi Dutch Village week 6 stud  
\$4900, all plus MF rentals  
considered  
US 508-651-0016  
Email: [rmwjmw@aol.com](mailto:rmwjmw@aol.com) 191077

## FOR SALE

**Casa del Mar**  
week 1, Presidential #1313,  
sleeps 6, partial ocean view  
\$25,000.00  
e-mail: [gkoon2@gmail.com](mailto:gkoon2@gmail.com)  
189971



**Tel: 582-7800**  
**Fax: 582-7044**

## I AM LOOKING TO BUY

**At Renaissance**  
**Aruba**  
week 50,51,52  
and 1  
Tel. 583-6000  
Ext. 2446  
in USA after 1/5/11  
914-498-2299 191066

## ARUBA VACATION PARK WATERPARK RESTAURANT NOW OPEN

Low LOCAL Prices  
**ENJOY YOURSELF**

## RENT A WEEKEND

**Apartment OR VILLAS**  
INCLUDED DINER AND LUNCH AND  
ENTRANCE WATERPARK

**NEW ENTRANCE**  
follow the SIGNS WATERPARK on  
the Caya Betico Croes NEXT to  
the HOOIBERG STAIRS

tel. 585 0550, 593 5281  
[www.arubavacationpark.com](http://www.arubavacationpark.com)



## Time Share Resales *always your best option*

<b>Marriott Ocean Club</b>	
1Br Platinum Ocean View	\$12500
1Br Platinum Ocean Front	\$15000
2Br Platinum Ocean View	\$20000
2Br Platinum Ocean Front	\$2600
<b>Marriott Surf Club</b>	
2Br Platinum Garden View	\$19000
2Br Platinum Ocean View	\$25000
2Br Platinum Ocean Side	\$22000
2Br Platinum Ocean Front	\$35000
3Br Platinum Ocean View	\$30000
<b>La Cabana Raquet Club</b>	
2Br wk 3,4,5,6 room 346E O.F.	\$30000 each.
<b>Divi Phoenix</b>	
2Br wk 1 room 306 Pool/ocean view	\$11000
1Br wk 1 room 401 Ocean View	\$8000
1Br wk1 room 501 Ocean View	\$8000
Stu wk 4 room 108 Poo/Ocean View	\$7000
<b>Amsterdam Manor</b>	
2Br wk 1 /52 the whole year for	\$550000
<b>Divi Links</b>	
1Br wk 4 room 2105 Pool View for	\$1500
<b>Occidental Resort</b>	
Jr.Siute wk 1/17 Ocean view	\$10000
1Br Deluxe wk 2/17 Ocean View	\$15000
2x 1Br supreme wk 2/17 ocean F.	\$30000 both
2Br supreme wk 2/17 Ocean Front	\$30000
3Br Supreme wk 2/17 Ocean Front	\$50000
<b>Renaissance siutes</b>	
1Br wk2/3 room 2309 P.O.	\$33000 both
1Br wk 3/4 Room 2142 H.V	\$20000 both
1Br wk 4 room 2343 P.O	\$1600
<b>Paradise beach Villas</b>	
1Br wk 1 room 227 ocean front	\$16000
2Br wk 2 room 207 pool/ocean	\$13000
1Br wk 3/4 Room 101 Pool /ocean	\$10000 each
<b>Riu Palace</b>	
2Br wk 4 room 269 Ocean Front	\$25000
<b>Costa Linda</b>	
2Br wk 3 room 4018 Ocean View	\$28000
2Br wk 4 room 2029 Pool/ocean	\$26000
<b>Tiera del sol</b>	
2Br 2Bath House for	\$550.000

**Many more weeks for sale**  
**call:731-2012 or562-0712**  
**Or e-mail me at**  
**[johnnypaesch@yahoo.com](mailto:johnnypaesch@yahoo.com)**

## Doctor on duty ORANJESTAD



Dr. v/d Linde

SAN NICOLAAS

## Pharmacy on duty

Oranjestad:

Botica Trupial

San Nicolaas:

Botica San Lucas



No. di Polis	581-1100
Oranjestad	582-4000
Noord	587-0009
Sta. Cruz	585-4710
Savaneta	584-7000
San Nicolas	584-5000

## Emergency Numbers



Emergencia	911
Polis	100
Brandweer	115
Brandweer II	582-1108
Tipline di Polis	11141
Hospital	587-4300

## Oranjestad

Ambulance	582-1234
Police station	582-4000

## San Nicolas

Ambulance	584-5050
Police station	584-5000
BGD San Nicolas	584-1606
Valero Security	584-1720

## Services

Elmar	583-3000
Information	118
Kadaster	582-1311
Serlimar	584-6456
Setar	582-5151
Taxi	582-2116
Web	585-4600
Voogdijraad	582-1262
Taxi	587-5900
Bureau Sosteneimi	588-1010
Professional Taxi	588-0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587-2300

## Cruise Ship

15 Arcadia  
15 Zuiderdam  
17 Coral Princess  
17 Thomson Dream  
17 Ocean Dream  
17Westerdam

## Funerals

AD Patres	584-2299
Aurora Funeral	588-6699
Mementomori	583-3358
The Olive Tree	584-8888

## Foundation Fellowship Clinic

Tel: 584-6440

Alcoholism & Drug Addiction,  
Anonymity guaranteed

Fundacion Anti-Droga

Aruba (FADA) Tel: 583-2999

## Fundacion Respetami

Tel: 582-4433

Diabetic Foundation

Arubano

Tel: 583-3808

## Narcotics Anonymous

Tel: 583-8989

Fundacion Amor pa

Prohimo

Tel: 583-3354 / 586-6976

Womens Defecultice

Foundation

Tel: 583-5400

## ARUBA VILLA RENTALS is now offering properties FOR SALE: great deals & fabulous prices!



**Best value in Tierra del Sol!** expanded 3 BDR 2 story villa, **Private pool.** Huge upper Master suite w/fab. balcony! Dream home! w/expansion possibilities! **Must SELL! Drastically reduced to \$765,000.** No reasonable offer refused.



2-story commercial building in **PRIME LOCATION.** Visible from 5 roads! ±400 sq. meter (4000 sq foot) & **lots of parking!** Use it as a **whole** or **split it up.** Part. Financing available **Price: \$800,000 Also for rent.**

## ARUBA VILLA RENTALS

Everything from simple **guestrooms** to **luxurious Villas!**

*By the week, month or year.*

**Phone: 586-8800 or 586-4290.**

**[www.ArubaVillaRentals.com](http://www.ArubaVillaRentals.com) – [www.absolutearuba.com](http://www.absolutearuba.com)**

*Ask about our other properties for sale, All our listings are carefully selected*



## A black and white photograph of a large, conical volcano, likely Mount Fuji, viewed from a distance. The volcano has a prominent central vent emitting a plume of smoke or ash. The foreground is filled with dark, jagged, and porous volcanic rocks, possibly from a previous eruption. The sky is clear and light-colored.

A black and white close-up photograph of a polar bear's face. The bear is looking directly at the camera with a steady gaze. Its fur is thick and white, with some darker patches around its eyes and on its ears. The background is out of focus, showing what appears to be a snowy or icy environment.

[illegible]



Lugo a boliviano Morales:

# Paraguay no apañará corruptos

ASUNCION (Reuters) - El presidente paraguayo, Fernando Lugo, dijo el jueves que su país no apañará "ni a corruptos ni a criminales" al referirse al polémico caso del suspendido gobernador boliviano que polarizó las posiciones en su Gobierno. Lugo respondió así a su colega de Bolivia, Evo Morales, quien había declarado en la víspera que ningún Gobierno o país debería proteger la corrupción, al ser consultado sobre el pedido de refugio del gobernador del departamento de Tarija Mario Cossío en el vecino país. Cossío huyó de Bolivia evadiendo un juicio por presunta corrupción y solicitó refugio bajo el argumento

de que es un perseguido del Gobierno de Morales. Paraguay le otorgó un permiso provisorio de 90 días para permanecer en el país mientras estudia la solicitud. El caso polarizó las posiciones al interior de la alianza oficialista, con el ala conservadora defendiendo a Cossío y el sector de izquierda de la administración de Lugo presionando por un rechazo al pedido e incluso una expulsión. "Paraguay no va a apañar a nadie, ni a criminales ni a gente corrupta", dijo Lugo brevemente a periodistas durante una visita a una firma de metales en las afueras de Asunción y agregó que es la Comisión Nacional de



El presidente paraguayo Fernando Lugo gesticula durante una reunión de fin de año con empleados estatales en Asunción, Paraguay, (AP Foto/Jorge Saenz)

Refugiados (CONARE) la que tiene la última palabra en la decisión.

La CONARE se reunirá el viernes para estudiar la solicitud pero su titular, Felipe Robertti, adelantó que analizar los documentos vinculados a las acusaciones a Cossío demandaría más tiempo.

El organismo, integrado por representantes del Poder Ejecutivo y del Congreso, tiene 90 días de plazo para emitir una resolución.

"Mañana se pondrá en conocimiento de los miembros de la comisión los documentos que se han arrimado estas dos semanas", desde que se formalizó el pedido, dijo Robertti a Reuters.

Morales dijo el martes que el asunto no afectará las relaciones entre ambos países, que han tenido un creciente acercamiento desde que Lugo llegó al poder hace poco más de dos años con acuerdos sobre temas limítrofes, fluvial y de energía. □

## Roban fondos para gastos gira presidenta Argentina

BUENOS AIRES (Reuters) - Delincuentes en moto robaron al menos 68.000 dólares a un funcionario que trasladaba fondos para solventar gastos de la gira por Oriente Medio que iniciará el jueves la presidenta argentina, Cristina Fernández, dijeron fuentes del Gobierno.

El empleado gubernamental fue asaltado el miércoles por tres hombres en el barrio de Palermo, en la capital argentina, tras sacar los dólares de la Secretaría General de la Presidencia. "Se confirma que (el robo) sucedió ayer y que se hizo la denuncia policial", dijo a periodistas el portavoz de la presidencia, Alfredo Scoccimarro, uno de los funcionarios que acompañarán a la mandataria en la gira que se iniciará más tarde el jueves.

Funcionarios dijeron que la presidencia argentina inició también una investigación interna. Medios locales indicaron que además de los 68.000 dólares, otros 17.000 euros en efectivo fueron arrebatados al funcionario por delincuentes motorizados, conocidos en Buenos Aires como "motochorros".

Fuentes policiales y judiciales dijeron a medios locales que el funcionario asaltado fue amenazado por los delincuentes, que estaban armados, y que fue obligado a entregar la mochila con el dinero.

Fernández visitará Kuwait, Qatar y Turquía, con escalas en Brasil y Egipto. Su regreso a Buenos Aires será el 23 de enero. □

## Muertos por inundaciones en Brasil suben a 400

TERESOPOLIS, Brasil (Reuters) - Socorristas luchaban el jueves por llegar a zonas aisladas por inundaciones y deslizamientos de tierra que han acabado con la vida de al menos 400 personas en uno de los peores desastres naturales de Brasil en décadas.

Torrentes de lodo y agua como consecuencia de fuertes lluvias dejaron una huella de destrucción a través de la montañosa región Serrana, cerca de la ciudad de Río de Janeiro, echando abajo casas, cortando carreteras y soterrando a familias enteras mientras dormían. "Es como si un terremoto hubiera remecido algunas áreas", dijo Jorge Mario, alcalde del área municipal de Teresópolis, donde fallecieron al menos 158 personas.

"Hay tres o cuatro barrios que fueron totalmente destruidos en áreas rurales. Difícilmente hay alguna casa en pie ahí y están destruidos todos los puentes y carreteras", agregó.

Los deslaves arrasaron con las casas de ricos y pobres en y alrededor de Teresópolis y otras ciudades, causando probablemente miles de millones de dólares en daños. Pero la parte más dura del desastre se la llevaron residentes rurales más pobres, en viviendas construidas en áreas de riesgo y sin una

autorización de planificación formal.

Imágenes de televisión mostraron a socorristas cavando desesperadamente en las ruinas de casas en búsqueda de sobrevivientes, encontrando a menudo sólo cuerpos sin vida. Un rescate exitoso tuvo lugar cuando un bebé de seis meses fue encontrado con vida en los escombros de una casa, provocando gritos de júbilo entre los residentes.

Una mujer cargaba a un perro en las ruinas de su casa mientras el agua derribaba con fuerza los muros remanentes. La mujer debió tomar una soga lanzada por residentes desde un techo cercano y de ese modo fue recuperada a salvo, pero tuvo que soltar al perro a las aguas para poder salvarse ella.

En Nova Friburgo, un poblado rural colonizado por primera vez por inmigrantes suizos, 168 personas habían perdido la vida, según funcionarios locales.

Previamente en la semana, las fuertes lluvias dejaron 13 muertos en el estado de Sao Paulo, lo que lleva el número total de víctimas a por lo menos 413.

Dilma Rousseff, que enfrenta el primer gran desafío de su presidencia tras asumir su mandato hace dos semanas, la calificó como una tragedia de la que no sólo puede culparse a la madre naturaleza. □





# PRESENTS

## JANUARY 15TH



# T S U N A M I

## LIVE ON STAGE!

FROM 9PM TILL MIDNIGHT!



Aruba's Beer

Outside Balashi bar  
Draft for only AWG 5,-!!



Renaissance Marketplace, L.G Smith Blvd. 9 - Tel: 583 8826 - [www.cafetheplaza.com](http://www.cafetheplaza.com)